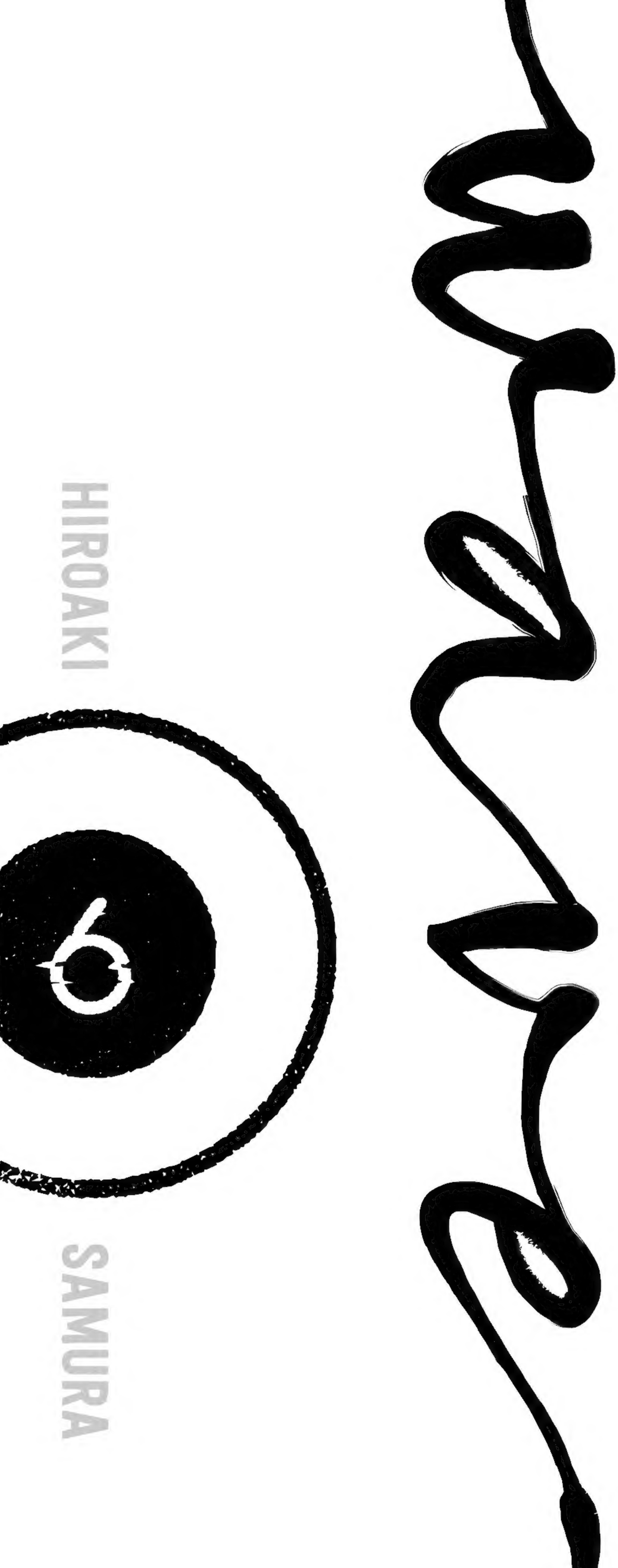
WAVE, LISTEN TO ME!

HIROAKI SAMURA

HIROAKI

SAMURA



LISTEN TO ME!

S T O R Y & C A S T

Sapporo, Hokkaido. One night at a bar, Minare Koda has her drunken ramblings secretly recorded by a local FM radio station director, Mato, who plays the audio over the air the following day. Upon crashing the studio to defend herself over the air, Minare unwittingly takes her first step to becoming a radio DJ with her very own show. Some time later, while accompanying scriptwriter Kureko to Wassamu for some onsite research, they're abducted by a local "religious organization" and, after uncovering the cult's plot to use sonic weaponry for unsavory purposes, inevitably have their stay extended. Sensing something is amiss, Nakahara and co. make for Wassamu on a rescue mission.

Minare Koda

The protagonist. Kushiro-born Sapporo resident. Currently 26 and single. Her day job is working as a waitress at the soup curry restaurant VOYAGER, but with her termination over the horizon, she's scrambling to make a living as a radio DJ.

Mizuho Nanba

Assistant director at MRS. Currently letting Minare stay with her after she was kicked out of her apartment. Wife material.

Kanetsugu Mato

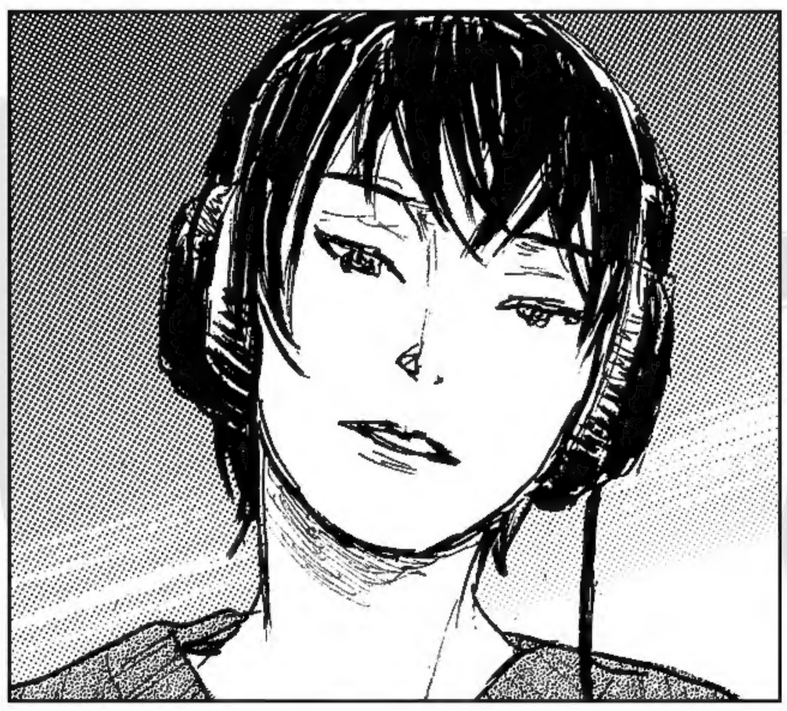
Director of FM station "Moiwayama Radio" (MRS). Saw potential in Minare's conversation skills and scouted her for the radio business.

Katsumi Kureko

A veteran scriptwriter for MRS and an established novelist. He and Mato go way back.

Chuuya Nakahara

An employee at VOYAGER. Supposedly in love with Minare, but invited Makie to stay at his place.



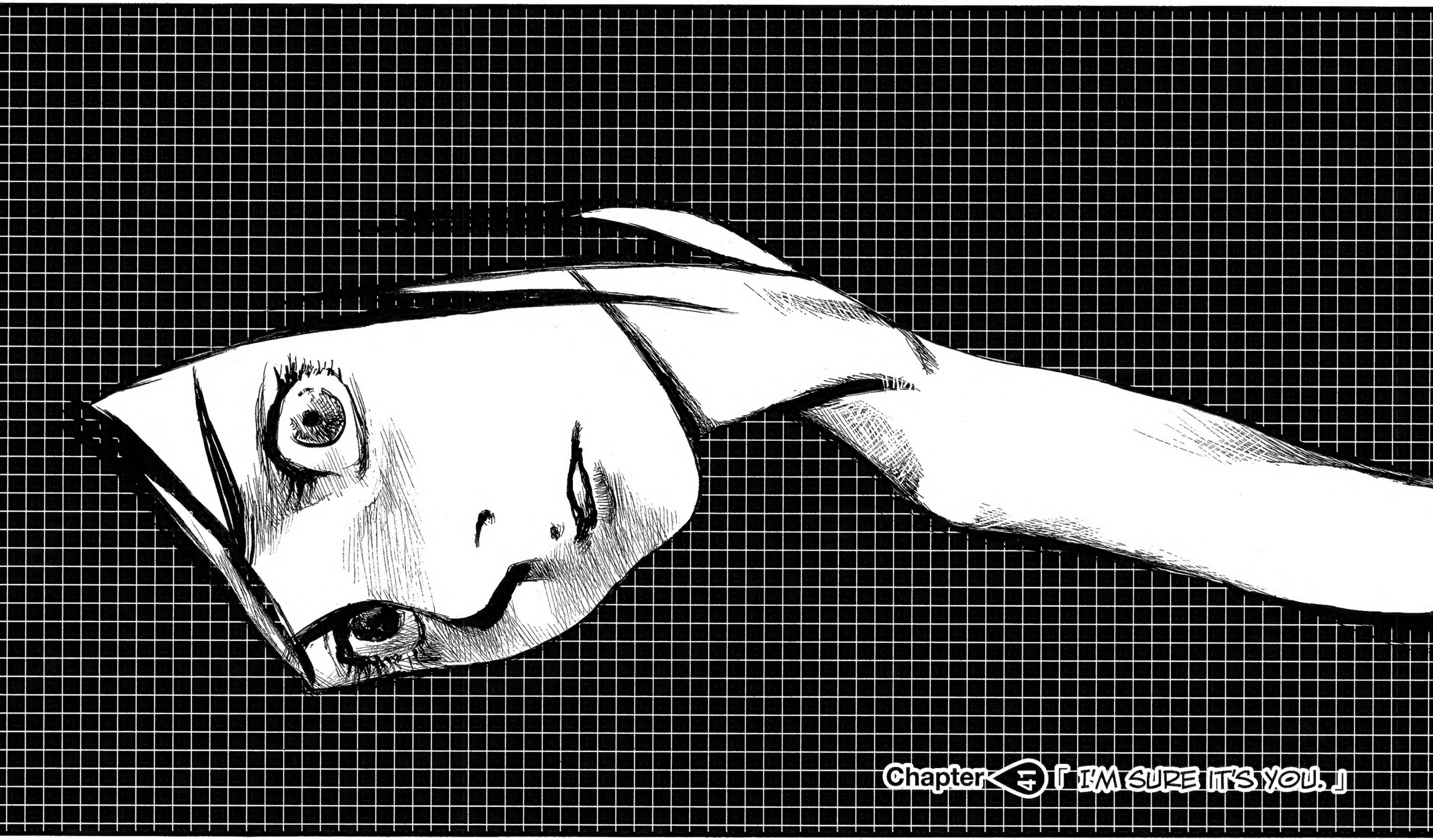
Madoka Chishiro

DJ at MRS. A highly skilled talker and close "friend" of Kureko's. Excels at provocative dialogue.

Makie Tachibana

A beautiful woman working at VOYAGER to help pay for the car accident caused by her brother. Not the most skilled swordsman in the manga, nor was she born in the Edo era.

Chapter 41 I'M SURE IT'S YOU. 005
Chapter 42 I CAN'T FIND THE WORDS. 027
Chapter 43 I WON'T LET YOU. 049
Chapter 44 NOTHING LASTS FOREVER. 071
Chapter 45 THEY DON'T CARE. 093
Chapter 46 NOT ALL MEN ARE DIRTBAGS. 115
Chapter 47 I CAN'T CONFINE YOU. 131
Chapter 48 I WON'T KNOW UNLESS I HURT YOU. 153



Chapter 47 「I'M SURE IT'S YOU.」

AND NOW,

PLEASE JOIN ME IN SINGING OUR ANTHEM.

Our spirits are yours to carve~

Oh, wild winds of Wassamu~

Reception rustlers best keep their filthy mouths shut~

When did I say that~?

Don't like it, don't watch it~

Don't you worry, I think my content's pretty ace~

Every streamer killed makes the world a better place~

For the School of Wave Wisdom~

May spring last an eternity~

We might just be the last hope for all Hokkaidoans~

THEY USE CORPORAL PUNISHMENT, Y'KNOW.

UM... ARE YOU SERIOUS?

YOU THINK I'D JOKE AROUND IN THIS SITUATION?

CONVERSING VIA TEXT IN THE BATH-ROOM TO AVOID THE SECURITY CAMS.

I'M THINKIN' ABOUT JOINING THE CHURCH.

...PRETTY MUCH.

SO... YOU'RE JUST GIVING UP?

By any chance... Do you feel responsible for us being taken prisoner, too?

It's our only way outta this place.

I DON'T REALLY GIVE A DAMN AS LONG AS I CAN KEEP WRITING SCRIPTS AND BOOKS. JOINING THEM'S THE EASY WAY OUT.

I tried to sneak in one last SOS when I sent the data, but who knows if anyone'll pick up on it. From what Koda was saying, it sounds like members are allowed off the mountain.

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, HOKAKUSHI-SAN HAS A POINT.

KUREKO-SAN...

We'll probably still need to sit tight for a while since I doubt they'll trust me right away. But once they let me out, I'll call for help ASAP.

IT'S FINE! THE ONLY REASON I CAME TO WASSAMU IN THE FIRST PLACE WAS TO HELP YOU!

WUT?

I'LL JOIN, TOO!

...AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE KODA'S ASSISTANT?

HUH?!

NO WAY, NANBA. I CAN'T LET YOU DO THAT.

IT'S 5 IN THE MORNING, I HAVEN'T SLEPT SINCE WE RECORDED THE RAP, AND THIS INITIATION IS TAKING FOREVER...

"UH, GUESS I'LL JOIN, TOO, THEN."

YEAH, GREAT IDEA, MINARE.

chool of wave Wisdom, champion of t he famed transmission tower in the nort ave o

THIS MUST BE THE POWER OF THE SOLFEGGIO FREQUEN-CIES!

AND IT DOESN'T HELP THAT THIS DUMBASS ANTHEM'S BEEN PLAYING IN THE BACKGROUND THE WHOLE TIME.

I'M FUCKING TIRED!

I'LL SLEEP IN THE HALLWAY FOR ALL I CARE, I JUST WANNA LIE DOWN!

YO, IS THIS REALLY PART OF THE INITIATION PROCESS?

SURE YOU'RE NOT JUST MAKING US PREP FOR TODAY'S BREAK-FAST?!

ONLY TEN MINUTES LEFT IN THE RITE OF SHUCKING.

LET'S PICK UP THE PACE, PEOPLE!

BUT YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO WOULDN'T THINK TWICE ABOUT JUMPING FROM THE TOP OF A TOWER TO SAVE YOUR FRIENDS, MINARE-SAN.

TONS OF PEOPLE CAN CUT PUMPKINS WELL,

HNGH... I'M SORRY, MIZUHO. I VOWED TO PROTECT YOU, BUT...

THEY'RE A LOT EASIER TO CUT IF YOU STICK THE KNIFE THROUGH THE STEM FIRST.

LOOK, MINARE-SAN.

...MAYBE LIVING HERE WOULDN'T BE SO BAD, AFTER ALL.

IT MADE ME FEEL LIKE...

BUT TO BE HONEST, I WAS REALLY RE-LIEVED.

I KNOW I MADE IT SOUND LIKE I WAS AGAINST IT,

WHEN YOU SAID YOU'D JOIN, TOO,

...SHE JUST CALLED IT PREP WORK.

THESE RITUAL NAMES ARE GETTING MORE AND MORE BLATANT.

ALL RIGHT! THAT'S ENOUGH PREP WORK.

WE'LL NOW MOVE ON TO THE RITE OF CORRIDOR PURIFICATION. PLEASE CARRY THESE BUCKETS.

MIZUHO...

YOU'RE MY PAPILLON, BABY.

LET'S BUST OUT OF THIS HELLHOLE TOGETHER SOMEDAY, HAND IN HAND.

PHEW... SHIT, IT'S SIX NOW?

I GUESS THIS IS THE LAST RITUAL. LESSEE... *HM?* *INITIATE'S GUIDE TO THE RITE OF DUAL SOULS?*

IT'S ALMOST MORNING, MAN...

MANUAL

ARE YOU SHITTING ME?

...YES, SIR.

MINARE KODA-SAN?

THAT'S RIGHT.

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?

ISN'T IT TIME FOR THE RITE OF DUAL SOULS OR WHAT-EVER?

!

DID YOU THINK YOU COULD LEAVE THE PREMISES IF YOU JOINED THE FAITH?

MM HM HM. OH, KUREKO-SAN...

AS IF WE'D FALL FOR SUCH AN OBVIOUS PLOY.

WE'RE NOT STUPID, YOU KNOW.

THOUGHT JOINING THE SCHOOL OF WAVE WIS-DOM WOULD GIVE THEM A CHANCE TO ESCAPE.

WHO, LIKE YOU,

THIS IS HARDLY THE FIRST TIME WE'VE CAPTURED BROADCAST MEDIA WORKERS,

WITH THAT CHILD AS COLLATERAL, YOU'LL BE ALLOWED TO COME AND GO AS YOU PLEASE.

HAVE A CHILD WITH ONE OF THE MEMBERS.

WHAT'S A GUY GOTTA DO TO BE RE-LEASED, THEN?

BECAUSE ACCORDING TO THE DOCTRINE, CHILDREN BORN WITHIN THE FACIL-ITY ARE TREATED AS PROPERTY OF THE ORGANIZA-TION, NOT THE PARENTS.

AREN'T YOU TRIKUMIA'S WOMAN?

BESIDES...

HOW CAN YOU DO THIS?

AND HERE I THOUGHT A MAN WOULD UNDERSTAND.

I MIGHT LOVE ONLY ONE MAN,

BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I CAN'T LUST FOR OTHER MEN, DOES IT?

Hell of an accent...

DOES THE CONCEPT OF "ATMOSPHERE" NOT EVEN EXIST WHERE YOU'RE FROM?

MINARE KODA-SAN!

BEAR MA BABES IF IT PLEASE YA!

WAIT, WAIT! I'M NOT READY FOR A KID!

BUT... I GUESS ONE TUSSLE IN THE SACK WON'T HURT.

LOOKS-WISE, HE'S PRETTY MUCH PERFECT...

YOU SAID YOU'D WAIT FOR ME TO BECOME A BIG, STRONG MAN!

HOW COULD YOU?!

MINARE-SAN!

BESIDES,

IT'S NOT LIKE I'M CHOOSING BETWEEN MEN HERE OR ANYTHING.

...DID I?

UGH...

KNOW YER PLACE, RUNT!

I'M A THIRD SEAT! I AIN' TAKIN' NO SASS FROM SOME SECOND MERIT BRAT, Y'HEAR?!

THAT'S ONE CRYPTIC RANK SYSTEM...

NRR?!

GET AWAY FROM MINARE-SAN!

KUBI JUMP

FWOMP!!

!

WHAT?!

OOP!

HEY, ASSHOLE!

HEH HEH... GUTSY GAL WE GOT HERE.

TCH...

YE'LL BE NEEDIN' THAT FIRE TO BAKE MY BUNS, I RECKON.

WHAT KINDA GROWN MAN DECKS A KID FOR NO GOOD REASON?!

?!

KYAAAAH

MIZUHO?!

MI...

THUMM!!

11° FWIP

SHIT!
STMP

I'M COMING, BABY!

SHIT... STUPID LOCK!

STAY BACK!

BUT I'M SURE YOU AND I COULD MAKE BEAUTIFUL CHILDREN TOGETHER.

WHY SO FEISTY?

IT'S A SHAME ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO MY FACE,

SO I LEFT HOME AND DRIFTED AROUND FOR A WHILE UNTIL I WOUND UP AT THIS CHURCH.

MY SEXUAL CONQUESTS EVENTUALLY MADE IT HARD TO STAY IN TOWN,

I'M FROM A SMALL FISHING TOWN FAR TO THE NORTH, YOU SEE.

HEH, HEH, HEH.

MM HM HM... THESE DAYS, I'M KNOWN AS CLINGY KUNDALINI, THE MAN WHO BRINGS ECSTASY TO EVERY WOMAN WHO PASSES THROUGH WASSAMU.

YOU'LL UNDERSTAND AFTER YOU SLEEP WITH ME ONCE.

NOW, LET ME TAKE A TRIP TO YOUR SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE.

NOOOO!

Please put the ritual on hold and carry the woman down to the soundproof room in the second-floor basement!

I'll send some help.

A group from Moiwayama Radio has broken in!

Key-marth! We've got a problem down-stairs.

...YES?

Yes, about that...

WHAT IS IT?

WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE RITE OF DUAL SOULS, YOU KNOW.

CHA-CHALA CHALALA CHALA-LALA

MINUTES AGO

MOIWAYAMA RADIO EMPLOYEES?

NO, I'M AFRAID WE HAVEN'T HAD ANY VISITORS LIKE THAT.

I SEE...

SCHOOL OF WAVE WISOM

DO YOU MIND IF WE TAKE A LOOK AROUND THE FACILITY?

NOW...?

PLEASE!

I'M SORRY, BUT I CAN'T LET YOU IN WITHOUT THE CHAIRMAN'S PERMISSION, AND HE'S ALREADY RETIRED FOR THE EVENING.

ALL RIGHT, WE'LL LEAVE FOR NOW...

...BUT I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW WE'VE REPORTED THE THREE OF THEM MISSING TO THE POLICE.

THEY SHOULD BE TREATING IT AS A POTENTIAL KIDNAP-PING.

WE'LL BE BACK LATER WITH AN OFFICER FROM THE SHIBETSU POLICE STATION.

I HOPE YOU'LL COOPER-ATE WITH US THEN.

I HAD NO IDEA.

WHEN DID YOU REPORT THEM MISSING?

I THOUGHT THAT IF I THREATENED THEM LIKE THAT...

I DIDN'T.

A LITTLE TOO LEI-SURELY FOR MY TASTE...

...THEY'D EITHER WEIGH THE RISKS AND JUST RELEASE THEM...

AND *THAT'S* WHEN WE MAKE OUR MOVE. GOTCHA.

...OR MOVE THEM TO ANOTHER LOCATION WHILE IT'S STILL DARK.

KYAAAAH

?!

THEY COULD BE IN BED WITH THE POLICE, TOO...

HM?

HEY! OPEN UP!

WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT SCREAM?!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO THEM?!

I THINK I JUST HEARD A WOMAN SCREAM.

BUT THAT WASN'T MINARE-SAN'S VOICE...

DASH

SILENCE

...BUT IT COULD'VE JUST BEEN ONE OF THE BELIEVERS.

WE NEED TO MAKE THEM THINK WE LEFT OR—

I KNOW YOU'RE GETTING ANTSY, KOMOTO-SAN...

BRKSH

THE PORTAL TO THE NETHER-WORLD IS OPEN.

SO MUCH FOR THAT... LET'S DO THIS!

DUMBASS JUST RUINED HIS OWN SETUP.

NANBA!

Chapter 2 「I CAN'T FIND THE WORDS.」

A group of men showed up about ten minutes ago. I turned them away, but they've just broken through the front door!

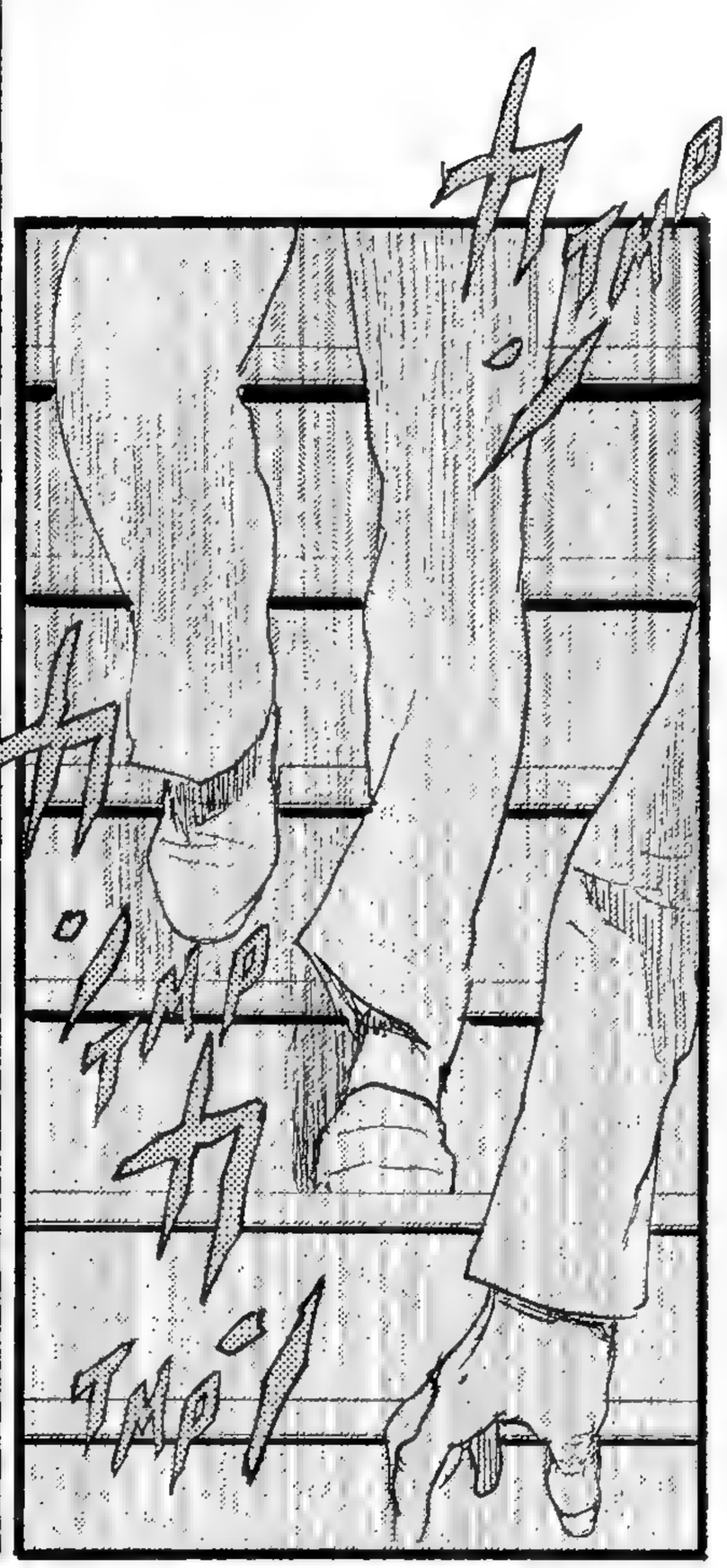
I'm sorry to wake you, sir! We have a situation on our hands!

...YES?

WHAT?!

...that we release the three from Moiwayama Radio *and* Rothion.

They're demanding...


THUMP
THUMP
THUMP

WE'RE JUST HERE TO RESCUE OUR FRIENDS YOU'RE KEEPING CAPTIVE!
I DIDN'T THINK IT'D BREAK THAT EASILY!
FIRST, LET ME APOLOGIZE FOR KICKING IN THE WINDOW!
WAIT!

RITSUKO AZOHARA.

...RIGHT. WE KNOW THEY'RE HERE! BRING THEM TO US RIGHT NOW!

THEIR NAMES ARE KATSUMI KUREKO, MIZUHO NANBA, MINARE KODA, AND...WHAT WAS HER NAME?

I TOLD YOU, WE HAVEN'T SEEN THEM!

THROW THEM OUT, BOYS!

*HALF-ASLEEP.

SPLASH

BAM

WUMP

KRAK

DA-

DUH...

WHAT ARE WE, SOME KINDA BATTLE MANGA DUO?!

GO easy?!

SCREW THESE GUYS! WORRY MORE ABOUT GETTING HOME IN ONE PIECE!

...FIGURES. WE'RE BUSTING IN, AFTER ALL.

GO EASY ON THEM, NAKAHARA-KUN.

RAH!

DRSH

DMP

DMP

DMP

DMP

YEESH. 'BOUT TIME IT GAVE.

YEAH...

Y'KNOW, IT JUST HIT ME. I SHOULD'VE JUST CHECKED THAT GUY'S POCKETS FOR THE KEY.

...HM? WHAT'S GOING ON? SURE IS ROWDY OUT HERE.

THANKS.

UM... THEY SHOULD BE IN THE OTHER ROOMS IN THIS HALL.

WHATEVER. WHERE ARE THE OTHERS HOLDING THEIR RITE OF DUAL SOULS?

OH... HELLO, KODA-SAN.

DONE ALREADY?

HI'CLACK

HEY! OPEN THE DOOR!

HI' BAM HI' BAM HI' BAM HI' BAM

YOU'VE GOT 30 SECONDS BEFORE I KNOCK THIS MOFO DOWN!

THE JIG'S UP!

PERSONALLY, I DON'T THINK A MAN WHO ISN'T GETTING LAID ON THE REGULAR COULD WRITE A BOOK...

NAH, NOT REALLY. FEEL FREE TO SQUEEZE HIM DRY ALL YOU WANT.

NEED SOMETHING FROM KUREKO-SAN?

HAVEN'T GOTTEN STARTED, ACTUALLY.

UHH. SORRY TO BARGE IN ON YOUR LITTLE LOVE NEST.

...TO SAVE HIS...

WE HAD A PRETTY GOOD MOOD GOING,

BUT THE MOMENT HE HEARD NANBA-SAN SCREAM, HE SNAPPED OUT OF IT AND GOT UP TO LEAVE.

THAT IRKED ME A LITTLE, AND, WELL...

...I ACCIDENTALLY CHOKED HIM OUT.

UH... WHY IS KUREKO-SAN PASSED OUT ON THE FLOOR?

IF ONLY...

DON'T TELL ME YOU SUCKED OUT HIS SOUL WHILE YOU WERE AT IT!

SHE SHOULD BE IN ONE OF THESE ROOMS.

CAN YOU BE A *LITTLE* MORE SPECIFIC?

YOU KNOW, FORGET IT. THANKS!

HOW DO YOU "ACCIDENTALLY" CHOKE SOMEONE OUT?!

LOOK WHO'S TALKING ...

YOU'RE FUCKIN' NUTS, LADY!

KNOW WHAT? NOT IMPORTANT. WHERE'S MIZUHO?!

WHAT?

WAIT, KODA-SAN.

I'M AFRAID NOT.

...?

AREN'T YOU CURIOUS ABOUT THE EXPERIMENTS WITH SOUND WE'VE BEEN DOING IN THIS FACILITY?

CRUDONION!

KINDA...

BUT CAN IT WAIT?

<understand.>

GAH...

HRGH

...

?

HIROMI... WHAT'RE YOU—

ERG... HI...

HRRR...

RAH!

MM HM HM.

THE SYLLABLE STRUCTURE OF THE MANDATORY MORNING AND EVENING SUTRA READINGS...

THE WALL-PAPER PATTERN,

THE MUSIC PLAYING OVER THE SPEAK-ERS,

KOF KOF

PEOPLE AREN'T YOUR GUINEA PIGS!

YOU CULTIST BASTARDS! WHERE DO YOU GET OFF?!

*THIS IS A MANGA ABOUT RADIO.

WHICH WE, THE EXECUTIVE MEMBERS, HAVE CAREFULLY CRAFTED TO ACTIVATE WITH JUST A SINGLE GESTURE FROM US.

JUNIOR BELIEVERS HAVE HAD COMMANDS TO TRIGGER UNCONSCIOUS AGGRESSION PLANTED DEEP WITHIN THEIR PSYCHE.

OR RATHER, TO ALL THREE IN CONJUNC-TION,

THROUGH EXPOSURE TO EACH OF THEM,

we went from Ted Chiang to Tchaikovskyz!

WHAT'S UP WITH THAT?!

BY THE WAY, HE'LL SNAP OUT OF IT WITH A KISS.

DON'T TELL ME...

AH!

HYA-AAH!!

when'd he get so nimblez!

CHOMP

THE CAMERAS WILL BE WATCHING.

DO YOUR BEST TO STEAL THAT POOR MINOR'S LIPS BY FORCE.

THAT'S SO DIRTY!

IF YOU REFUSE TO HAVE A CHILD,

THEN WE'LL AT LEAST NEED SOME DIRT ON YOU.

*THE MEN BEAT UP BY KOMOTO AND NAKAHARA.

compared to the other two...

HEY... HE LOOKS PRETTY WEAK.

ALL RIGHT! LET'S GET HIM!

*RITSU-KO!

*IT'S ME! IF YOU CAN HEAR ME, SAY SOME-THING!

HRA-AAAH!!

ON THE RIDE OVER

...WHY DO YOU EVEN HAVE ONE?

I'M WORRIED ABOUT GOING WITH JUST THE THREE OF US, SO I'LL BRING MY TASER.

MIND IF WE STOP BY MY PLACE?

...STAY AWAY FROM ME.

AHH...

MMF MRR MMMF!

OW, OW, OW!

QUIT SQUIRMING!

WE'RE JUST MOVING TO A DIFFERENT ROOM!

WHACK

RIGHT IN THE FACE...

WHACK

GAH...

MMM!

HM?

MMF!

HUH?

SHWK

TCH... JUST MY LUCK.

DASH!

...

BRING IT ON, CREW CUT!

LET'S SEE WHO'S *REALLY* WORTHY ENOUGH TO LAY WITH THIS WO—

HEH HEH HEH!

TMP TMP

ARE YOU OKAY?! DID HE HURT YOU?!

MMM! MMM!

IT'S ALL SCRAPED UP...

OH, GOD!

HUH? UHH, OKAY ...

KOMOTO-SAN! LET ME SEE YOUR HAND!

SHRRT

Y'KNOW, YOU'RE MORE MILITANT THAN YOU LOOK.

I MEAN... WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT, PEOPLE NEED THEIR HANDS TO DO JUST ABOUT ANY JOB.

TAKE BETTER CARE OF YOUR HANDS! AUDIO ENGINEERS NEED THEM TO WORK!

YOU COULD'VE BROUGHT A BAT OR SOME-THING!

NO SHIT SHE WAS SCARED. WHO WOULDN'T BE?

...

UM...

THANK YOU...

...FOR COMING.

OH... I THINK...

WHERE ARE THE OTHERS?

...MINARE-SAN MANAGED TO BREAK OUT. THAT'S WHAT IT SOUNDED LIKE, ANYWAY.

I DON'T KNOW WHERE KUREKO-SAN IS, THOUGH.

WILL YOU HELP ME LOOK FOR HIM?!

OF COURSE.

WHILE I WAS HOLDING HER HAND,

*I WAS TRYING TO THINK OF SOMETHING TO SAY THAT'D CALM HER DOWN **AND** MAKE HER FALL FOR ME AT THE SAME TIME.*

MAN, I'M LAME...

THANK GOD!

ARE YOU OKAY?! CAN YOU MOVE?!

MINARE-SAN!

YOU'RE LATE, NAKAHARA...

...WHO'S THE KID?

I JUST CALLED THE COPS FROM THE BATH-ROOM.

IF WE CAN HOLD OUT FOR TEN MINUTES...

BUT I SURE AS HELL KNOW IT CAN WAIT!

I DUNNO WHAT SHE'S ON ABOUT,

GET OVER ME, DUDE. IT AIN'T HAPPEN-ING.

EVERY SELF-RESPECTING ADULT...

...HAS A LITTLE THING CALLED RESPONSI-BILITY.

YOU KNOW THAT, RIGHT?

Chapter 32 「I WON'T LET YOU.」

Believers, please rise.

Believers, please rise.

Believers, please rise.

I'LL MANAGE... WAIT, WHERE'S OKI-SAN?

MINARE-SAN!

MIZU-HO!

HOW'RE YOU HOLDING UP, NAKAHARA-KUN?

HE JUST KINDA SLIPPED OFF...

AHH. YEAH, I SAW HIM.

HAVE YOU SEEN KUREKO-SAN?!

MINARE-SAN!

HOLD IT, NANBA.

WHERE?! WE HAVE TO HELP HIM!

HE WAS PASSED OUT IN HOKA-KUSHI-SAN'S ROOM.

SHE SAID SHE CHOKED HIM OUT, SO I FIGURED HIS LIFE WASN'T IN ANY DANGER OR ANYTHING.

MRR?

HE'S OUT

SAVING HIS RIVAL, EH? WHAT A BAD-ASS.

THAT'S WHAT A *REAL* MAN LOOKS LIKE.

SEE THAT, HIROMI?

I'LL GO GET HIM.

ARE YOU KIDDING ME? I WAS WORRIED SICK ABOUT YOU!

IT'S JUST, WELL...

WHY DO YOU SEEM SO NON-CHALANT ABOUT THIS?

I MEAN, I APPRE-CIATE YOU COMIN' TO MY RESCUE AND ALL, BUT...

ON THE OTHER HAND...

WITH HOW CRAPPY THIS PLACE'S SECURITY IS, I FIGURED YOU'D FIND A WAY TO BUST OUT ON YOUR OWN.

KNOWING YOU,

Y-YEAH. YOU GUESSED IT.

HUH, YOU REALLY DO KNOW ME WELL.

SEE THIS, HIROMI? THIS IS WHAT *REAL* TRUST LOOKS LIKE.

...SO YOU CAME BACK TO HELP 'EM. SOUND RIGHT?

BUT SINCE YOU'RE STILL HERE,

I'M GUESSING SAVING YOUR FRIENDS TOOK PRIORITY...

CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
MY, OH MY.
WHAT COMMENDABLE COMRADERY.

SCREW IT. LET'S LEAVE HIM.

HUH?!

YOU'VE REALLY DONE IT NOW.

WE WOULDN'T HAVE A SNOW-BALL'S CHANCE IN HELL OF WINNING.

ABDUCTION AND CONFINEMENT VS. TRESPASSING, PROPERTY DAMAGE, AND ASSAULT. WHAT SAY WE SKIP THE TALKING AND TAKE THIS STRAIGHT TO COURT?

I HAVE JUST TWO QUESTIONS FOR YOU ALL.

KUREKO-SAN!

I THOROUGHLY CHECKED ALL OF THE DATA SENT TO MOIWAYAMA RADIO, AND I DIDN'T DISCOVER ANYTHING IN THE NATURE OF AN SOS.

HOW DID YOU LEARN OF THIS PLACE?

AND WHY DID YOU SHOW UP *NOW* OF ALL TIMES TO RESCUE THEM?

I CAN HARDLY IMAGINE SHE MANAGED TO CONVEY ENOUGH INFO IN THAT TIME.

HOWEVER, THE LOG SHOWED THAT ONLY TWO VERY BRIEF CALLS WERE MADE.

THE ONLY POSSIBILITY THAT I CAN THINK OF WOULD BE WHEN KODA-SAN ESCAPED WITH CRUDONION'S SMARTPHONE.

WHAT?!

...BUT IT LOOKS LIKE YOU DON'T HAVE A SINGLE SOUND ENGINEER WITH A DECENT SET OF EARS.

JUDGING BY THE QUALITY OF THE PROGRAM YOU SENT,

I'M GUESSING YOU HAVE A NUMBER OF MEMBERS WHO WORKED IN THE BROAD-CASTING INDUSTRY...

WELL...EVEN I WOULD'VE MISSED IT IF OUR DIRECTOR HADN'T NOTICED THAT SOMETHING WAS OFF ABOUT THE EMAIL KUREKO-SAN SENT.

IT WAS THE OPENING RAP YOU RECORDED AND SENT LAST.

DIDN'T YOU THINK THERE MIGHT'VE BEEN SOME DEEPER MEANING HIDDEN IN THOSE NONSENSICAL LYRICS?

THE EASIEST ROUTE WOULD BE TO WRITE OUT THE SOS,

THEN READ IT OUT LOUD IN A RAP STYLE AND LAY THE LYRICS OVER THE TRACK IN REVERSE.

BUT THAT'D BE VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO DO UNDER SURVEILLANCE.

TO MAKE THAT AUDIO,

THE IDEA'S SIMPLE ENOUGH, BUT ACTUALLY WRITING OUT ON THE SPOT MUST'VE BEEN INSANELY DIFFICULT.

BASICALLY, WHAT HE HAD TO DO...

...WAS WRITE THE SOS IN COMPLETE GIBBERISH THAT *MIGHT* SOUND LIKE A COHERENT MESSAGE WHEN PLAYED BACKWARDS.

BUT HOW DID YOU *ARRIVE* AT THIS LOCATION?

...

VERY WELL.

Yasorigoe-san!

IN A SENSE, YOU COULD SAY THAT'S THE *DEEPER MEANING.*

"OHH. *THAT'S* WHAT HE MEANT."

IT WAS LIKE,

IT ONLY HIT ME WHAT WAS UP AFTER I READ THE LYRICS OUT LOUD A FEW DOZEN TIMES.

AND YET WE HAVEN'T RECEIVED A SINGLE REPORT FROM THEM IN THE LAST TWO DAYS.

...TO INFORM US OF *ANYONE* WHO SO MUCH AS ATTEMPTS TO VISIT THE PREMISES, UNDER THE PRETENSE OF SECURITY.

SEEING AS THE CAT'S OUT OF THE BAG, I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW THAT WE'VE ASKED THE SHIBETSU POLICE...

!

I MANAGED TO LOOK UP THE COORDI-NATES OF THE BUILDING, SO I MIXED THEM INTO THE RAP.

SOWWY. IT WAS ME.

WHEN I BROKE OUT WITH THE PHONE,

IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT?!

DID YOU ASK ONE OF THE LOCALS?

YUP.

YOU MEAN YOU'D ALREADY LOOKED THEM UP *BEFORE* YOU DROPPED THE PHONE?!

YOU *DID* MENTION SOMETHING LIKE THAT, DIDN'T YOU?

COORDI-NATES?

I HAD MY EYE ON YOU THE WHOLE RECORDING, BUT I DIDN'T SEE YOU LOOK AT YOUR STOMACH ONCE.

...!

ARE YOU TELLING ME YOU REMEMBERED 20-SOME NUMBERS FOR LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE DURING THAT WHOLE TIME?

THREE DAYS PASSED FROM THE TIME YOU DROPPED THE PHONE UNTIL YOU WERE CAPTURED.

ALL I HAD TO DO WAS PRETEND TO SCRATCH MY STOMACH AND READ THEM LIKE BRAILLE.

YEAH, WELL, WITH HOW SWOLLEN THE SCRATCHES WERE,

IT'S NOT LIKE I *WANTED* TO DO THIS SHIT TO MYSELF, Y'KNOW! THERE'S NOTHIN' BUT SAPPY CONIFERS AROUND HERE.

HELL NO. LOOK.

I SCRATCHED THEM INTO MY TUMMY WITH A STICK.

I WAS PLANNING TO SHOW THE COPS.

BUT ALAS,

IN THE END, IT WOULD SEEM LUCK IS IN *OUR* HANDS

DO, HO, HO, HO, HO.

I SEE, I SEE. SO, YOU MANAGED TO CORNER US...

...THROUGH A COMBINATION OF RESOURCE-FULNESS AND SHEER DUMB LUCK, DID YOU?

IF YOU WISH US TO RELEASE KUREKO-SHI UN-HARMED,

YOU WOULD DO WELL TO OBEY OUR COMMANDS.

WHA?!

OOP! NO SUDDEN MOVEMENTS, PLEASE. AND KEEP THOSE PHONES IN YOUR POCKETS IF YOU'D BE SO KIND.

THERE IS A SOUNDPROOF STUDIO IN THE SECOND-FLOOR BASEMENT. I'D LIKE YOU ALL TO MOVE THERE.

THEN, EVEN IF THE POLICE COME—

GAH!

I TAKE IT *YOU'RE* THEIR RINGLEADER.

EXCUSE ME, BUT...WHO ARE YOU?!

ROTHION!

I FINALLY REUNITED WITH RITSUKO...

...BUT SHE DOESN'T REMEMBER ME AT ALL! THOSE HAPPY DAYS WE SPENT TOGETHER ARE COMPLETELY WIPED FROM HER MEMORY!

WHAT DID YOU DO TO HER, YOU BASTARD?!

HUH?! WAIT...

WE HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH—

SHUT THE HELL UP, YOU FIEND! SCUM LIKE YOU HAVE NO PLACE IN THIS WORLD!

NORTHERN VOLTAGE

"AT THE TIME, I WAS THE ONLY ONE THERE WHO KNEW THAT RITSUKO-SAN'S (ROTHION) AMNESIA WAS OBVIOUSLY CAUSED BY THE GASES SHE HUFFED DURING HER AND OKI-SAN'S WILD SEX ROMP NEAR A NATURAL HOT SPRING, AND THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL OF WAVE WISDOM JUST TOOK HER IN AND NURSED HER BACK TO HEALTH...BUT I KINDA GOT CAUGHT UP IN THE MOMENT. THAT WAS MY BAD."

KODA MINARE'S POST-MORTEM STATE-MENT:

HELL YEAH! FUCK HIM UP!

number one being Tachibana's brother.

THAT DUDE'S PROBABLY THE SECOND SCARIEST PERSON I'VE MET SINCE I MOVED TO HOKKAIDO.

?!

FLASHBACK

AH...

KNOCK

HEY! YOU OKAY?!

AAH! OKI-KUN...!

THE CONTROL ROOM. FEAR NOT,

ONLY EXECUTIVE MEMBERS HAVE ACCESS.

UGH... WHERE AM I?

GASP

DAMN THEM...

WEE
WOO
WEE
WH- WHAT THE?!
THOSE RED LIGHTS...
THE POLICE?!
MOST LIKELY.
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME!
THOSE GOVERNMENT LAPTOPS STABBED ME IN THE BACK!
WELL, SIR, WE NEVER BOUGHT THEM OUT IN THE FIRST PLACE.
DAMN IT ALL!
HOW COULD THIS HAPPEN?!
WE WERE SO CLOSE...! OUR DOGMA WAS TO BE SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE WORLD!

...WE'LL TRIGGER EVERYONE'S UNDER-STAND KEY!

ALL RIGHT, BUT WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO?

PATCH US THROUGH TO THE MONITORS IN THE LOW-RANK BELIEVERS' ROOMS.

YOU REALIZE DOING THAT WILL MAKE US *ACTUAL* TERRORISTS, DON'T YOU?

HANAWA-SAN...

WE'LL COLLECT THE RESEARCH DATA AND SPLIT!

WHILE THEY KEEP THE POLICE BUSY,

...I SEE.

WE'LL LIE LOW WHILE WE PLAN OUR NEXT MOVE. DAMN IT...

AS LONG AS NONE OF THE DATA GETS OUT, THAT IS.

THEY'LL ATTACK THE POLICE EVEN IF WE DON'T COMMAND THEM TO! NO DIRT ON OUR HANDS!

FLICK

Believers, out of bed, please.

WHAT'S UP? WE USUALLY GET ANOTHER HALF HOUR TO SLEEP.

UGH... IT'S STILL DARK OUT.

IT'S PALIROYA.

HM?

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

THIS AIN'T GOOD.

WE'VE GOT THREE UN-CONSCIOUS PEOPLE,

AND ONE WITH AMNESIA.

I DON'T SEE HOW WE'RE GETTIN' AWAY FROM THEM.

BELIEVERS ARE POURING OUT OF THE TOWER.

AH, FUCK. SERIOUSLY?

BUT WE'RE DOWN OUR ELECTRICITY USER, OKI-SAN!

WHOA! THEY'RE FAST!

WE STILL HAVE THE TASER...

OH, WELL. LET'S BEAT 'EM DOWN HERE!

DO YOU HAVE A MINUTE?

UM... EXCUSE ME.

HUH?!

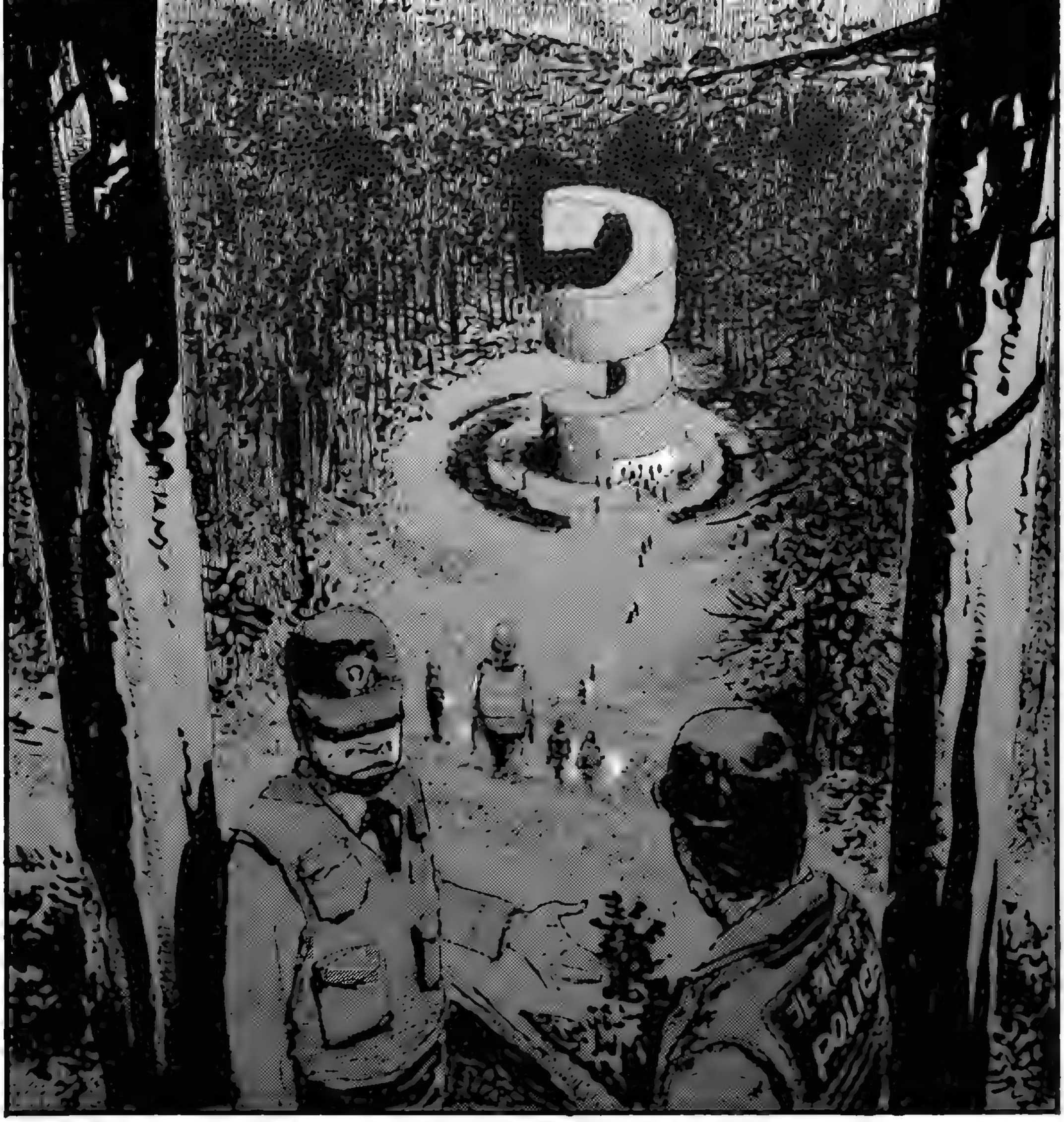
UM... WHERE EXACTLY ARE WE?

LET'S SIT TIGHT AND WAIT FOR THE AUTHORITIES, SHALL WE, HANAWA-SAN?

WELL, THEN.

Chapter 44

「NOTHING LASTS FOREVER」


POLICE

I GOTTA SAY...

ウォーン

ウォーン

NEVER THOUGHT I'D WATCH THE COPS TAKE SOMEONE AWAY NOT ONCE, BUT *TWICE* IN MY LIFE.

I HOPE YOU'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT *ME* FOR THAT FIRST TIME.

GUESS I WAS BORN UNDER A CRIME STAR.

OKI-SAN! HOW'RE YOU FEELIN'?

UM... HOW DO THINGS LOOK WITH RITSUKO?

FINE NOW, THANKS. SORRY FOR THE TROUBLE.

I SEE. WELL... IT'S ALL RIGHT.

SOUNDS LIKE A HASHTAG KAREN TAKIZAWA'D USE ON HER INSTAGRAM.

EVERY TIME WE MEET MIGHT BE LIKE THE FIRST TIME, BUT I WANT TO CHERISH THAT FEELING.

WELL, SINCE SHE TECHNICALLY HELD AN EXECUTIVE POSITION IN THE CULT,

THEY SAID THEY'LL TAKE HER TO A SPECIALIST IF IT TURNS OUT SHE REALLY DOES HAVE AMNESIA.

THEY'RE GONNA HAVE TO TAKE HER IN FOR QUES-TIONING.

THANKS FOR SAVIN' THE DAY, KOMOTO.

MATO-SAN'S THE ONE WHO REALIZED SOMETHING WAS OFF ABOUT YOUR EMAIL.

DON'T THANK ME.

IF YOU HADN'T PICKED UP ON THAT DISTRESS SIGNAL, WE'D STILL BE LOCKED UP IN THAT TOWER.

WELL... I DO WISH YOU'D BEEN A *LITTLE* MORE RELIABLE.

YOU WERE CHARGED WITH KEEPING TWO WOMEN OUT OF HARM'S WAY, AFTER ALL.

I WAS OUT COLD FOR MOST OF IT.

I FEEL PRETTY LAME, MYSELF.

BESIDES, IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOUR QUICK THINKING, WE WOULDN'T BE HERE, KUREKO-SAN.

IT'S NEVER REALLY BEEN MY STRONG SUIT.

AS MUCH AS I'D LOVE TO BE THE STALWART LEADER,

NANBA...

KUREKO-SAN DID EVERYTHING HE COULD TO PROTECT US!

I'M THE ONE WHO INSISTED ON COMING!

PLEASE DON'T BLAME KUREKO-SAN!

WHAT AM I S'POSED TO SAY?

YOU DON'T HAVE TO APOLO-GIZE!

WE'RE SAFE AND SOUND THANKS TO YOU THREE!

SO, IN A WAY, YOU COULD SAY THIS IS ALL MY FAULT.

PLUS, I'M THE ONE WHO CONTACTED HOKAKUSHI-SAN TO BE OUR GUIDE IN THE FIRST PLACE.

WELL... SORRY, I GUESS.

I WASN'T TRYIN' TO POINT FINGERS OR ANY-THING.

I WASN'T ANY HELP AT ALL.

I JUST SAT BY...

...AND WAITED TO BE RESCUED.

KUREKO-SAN, MINARE-SAN, KOMOTO-SAN...

BUT I...

EVERYONE USED THEIR HEADS AND PLAYED SOME KEY ROLE IN GETTING US OUT.

I'M SORRY FOR BREAKING DOWN.

WELL...I COULD HAVE USED MY HR SKILLS OR SOMETHING, AT LEAST.

BUSTING PERPS AIN'T EXACTLY A RADIO AD'S FIELD OF EXPERTISE.

NANBA... THIS IS A FULL-BLOWN CRIMINAL CASE.

AND YOU ARE...?

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR TAKING CARE OF MY SON.

MINARE KODA-SAN?

I HAD COUNTLESS SURGERIES TO MAKE MYSELF LOOK MORE MASCULINE, BUT IN THE END, HE JUST TOLD ME "I THINK YOU MISSED THE POINT."

YEARS AGO, I FELL IN LOVE WITH A GAY MAN, YOU SEE.

LIVING LIFE IN THE FAST LANE, HUH?

NOT THAT I'M ONE TO TALK.

THANKFULLY, HE WAS WILLING TO GIVE ME HIS SEED AND I WAS BLESSED WITH MY SON,

BUT ALONE, PREGNANT, AND UNSURE OF WHERE TO GO OR WHAT TO DO, THE NEXT THING I KNEW, I FOUND MYSELF IN A CULT.

I'M HIROMI SAIKI'S MOTHER.

NOT HIS DAD?!

THIS INDUSTRY'S HURTING FOR TALENTED DIRECTORS.

ONCE THE DUST SETTLES, WHY DON'T YOU LOOK FOR WORK AT A RADIO STATION?

HOKAKUSHI-SAN.

...MAYBE I'LL APPLY TO MRS.

DON'T LET ME STOP YOU.

JUST KIDDING.

I'D RATHER NOT FIGHT WITH NANBA-SAN EVERY SINGLE DAY.

YEAH?

PERSONALLY, I THINK YOU TWO'D MAKE A PRETTY GOOD DUO.

TO BE HONEST,

I'M MOST WORRIED ABOUT YOU.

CRU... I MEAN, HIROMI-KUN.

MAY I HAVE A MINUTE, OFFICERS?

ER... YES?

SO...

THAT SAID, YOUR MOTHER ISN'T THE MOST... PROVIDING.

YOU'RE STILL TOO YOUNG TO HIT THE JOB MARKET.

TAKE CARE.

...I PRE-PARED A LITTLE PARTING GIFT FOR YOU.

A PARTING GIFT?

CHECK YOUR BAG LATER.

I'M STARVING... Y'ALL SHOWED UP BEFORE WE EVEN HAD BREAKFAST.

USE IT WELL.

A PHOTO AND A FLASH DRIVE?

!

SEE YA WHEN YA GET BACK.

SURE THING. TAKE IT EASY.

'ZAT RIGHT?

I'LL BE DAMNED. GREAT WORK.

SORRY TO BUG YOU SO EARLY. OH, YOU WERE ALREADY UP?

...IT'S ME.

YOU CAN REST EASY NOW.

LOOKS LIKE MINARE AND THE OTHERS ARE FINALLY COMIN' HOME.

I JUST GOT A CALL FROM ONE OF OUR BOYS.

MRS

ANYHOW, IT SOUNDS LIKE THEY WENT THROUGH A LOT. I'LL CALL YOU AGAIN ONCE I HEAR THE WHOLE STORY.

HA HA HA. SURE, LET'S LEAVE IT AT THAT.

HM? YOU WEREN'T WORRIED?

CIAO.

SAPPORO, NOVEMBER

GLAD TO HEAR IT.

IT'S GOOD TO BE HOME.

AHH. BLAND-ASS CONFERENCE ROOM. BLAND-ASS COFFEE.

WHY DO YOU KEEP GOING OUT?

I COULD GET ALL OF AFRICA VACCINATED FOR SMALLPOX WITH HOW MUCH I'M SPENDING ON GAS!

GOD, THOSE FLATFOOT FUCKUPS!

THEY ASKED ME TO COME INTO THE SHIBETSU STATION EVERY OTHER DAY. IT'S A MAJOR PAIN, I TELL YA.

CAN'T YOU CHALK IT UP TO NECESSI-TY?

WELL, THANKS TO OUR GRACIOUS RESCUERS GETTING A LI'L OVERZEALOUS, THE NUMBER OF PUNCHES THROWN FAAAAR OUT-NUMBERS THOSE RECEIVED.

IT'S VOLUNTARY, RIGHT? ASK 'EM TO WORK WITH YOUR SCHEDULE OR MAKE IT SO YOU CAN TAKE CARE OF THAT STUFF HERE IN SAPPORO.

THE THING IS... THEY'RE KINDA ON OUR CASE FOR PROPERTY DAMAGE AND EXCESSIVE FORCE.

WHAT'RE YOU ON ABOUT?

THIS SOME KINDA SOCIAL COMMEN-TARY?

Y'KNOW, NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, THERE *WERE* FOXES RUNNIN' ALL OVER THE PLACE!

IS THIS HOW IT FEELS TO GET OUT-FOXED?

AAAALL THE MEMBERS WE WALLOPED INSISTED THEY HAD NO RECOLLECTION OF EVER JOINING THE CULT. AIN'T THAT FUCKIN' CONVENIENT?!

AND GET THIS SHIT! AS SOON AS THE COPS SHOWED UP,

ANYHOW, I'M SURE THE POLICE'LL BE KEENER TO LISTEN TO US ONCE ALL THE DETAILS SURFACE.

HEY, THERE.

Y'KNOW, KUREKO-SAN.

WE WENT OVER THAT, REMEM-BER?

I'M WILLIN' TO BET THOSE WERE THE FRUITS OF THE CULT'S RESEARCH.

...WITH NO NAKA-HARA-KUN FOLLOWING ME AROUND LIKE A PUPPY,

BEING TRAPPED FOR THAT LONG...

I'VE NEVER HEARD ANYONE ABBREVIATE STOCKHOLM SYNDROME LIKE THAT BEFORE.

AND YOU SHOULD PROBABLY DOUBLE-CHECK THE DEFINITION.

GLAD TO HEAR IT.

FOR A SEC THERE, I WAS WORRIED I MIGHT SUCCUMB TO THE OL' STOCKY SYNDY AND FALL FOR YOUR CYNICAL CHARM, THUS DRIVING A WEDGE BETWEEN ME AND MIZUHO.

BUT, NOPE, DIDN'T HAPPEN IN THE SLIGHTEST.

FOR REAL?!

GUESS THERE'S SOMETHING SHE'D LIKE TO TELL US.

SHE'S STILL IN CUSTODY, RIGHT?

I GOT A LETTER FROM HOKA-KUSHI-SAN THIS MORNING.

SAPPORO, HOKKAIDO
KATSUMI KUREKO

DEAR KUREKO-SAMA AND CO.,

IT SEEMS WINTER IS UPON US AGAIN. I HOPE YOU ARE ALL STAYING WARM AS THE COLD SETS IN.

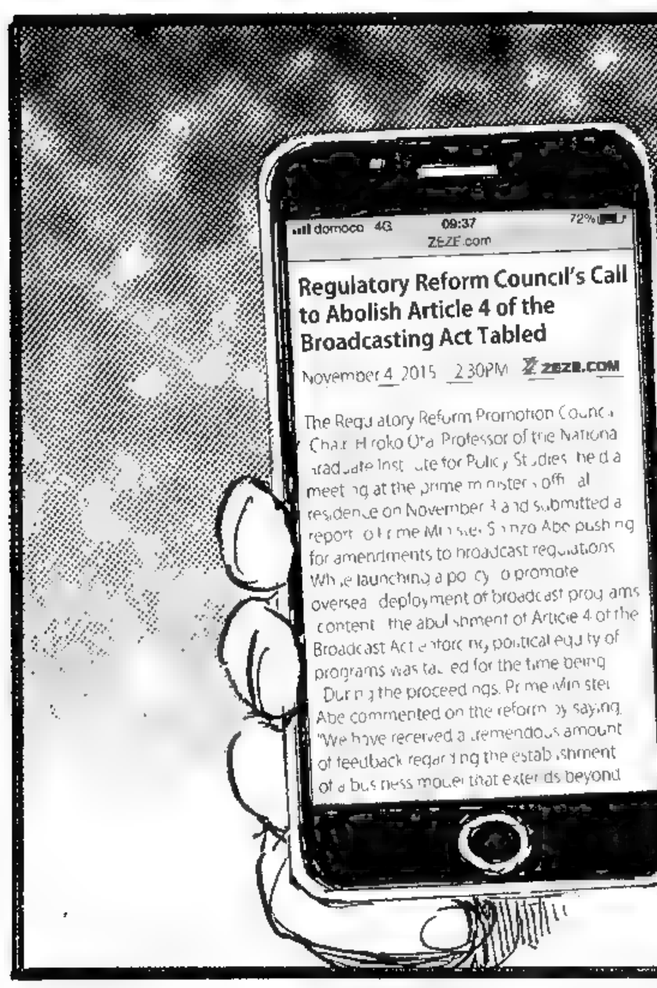
WHILE I AM WELL AWARE WHAT WE HAVE DONE CANNOT BE FORGIVEN EASILY, I WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND MY SINCEREST APOLOGIES TO KUREKO-SAMA, KODA-SAMA, NANBA-SAMA, AND EVERYONE ELSE AT MOIWAYAMA RADIO.

C'MON... HAVEN'T YOU SEEN THE NEWS?

WHAT DOES SHE MEAN?

"UNEXPECTEDLY ACCOMPLISHED"?

SHE'S PROBABLY TALKING ABOUT *THIS.*



TO BE PERFECTLY HONEST, I HAD A SNEAKING SUSPICION THAT OUR ORGANIZATION'S NEFARIOUS PLOT INVOLVING AUDIO BROADCASTS WOULD ULTIMATELY END IN FAILURE, AND I AM ACTUALLY RELIEVED THAT WE WERE THWARTED BEFORE OUR PLANS WERE PUT INTO ACTION.

HOWEVER, WHILE IN CUSTODY, IT APPEARS OUR MISSION WAS UNEXPECTEDLY ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH THE GOVERNMENT'S COMPLETELY UNRELATED LEGISLATION. AS SUCH, I THOUGHT I WOULD WRITE TO SHARE MY MOST UNBECOMING ELATION WITH KUREKO-SAMA.

OH, THIS? YEAH, I READ ABOUT IT.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

The Regulatory Reform Promotion Council (Chair, Hiroko Ota, Professor of the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies) held a meeting at the prime minister's official residence on November 3 and submitted a report to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe pushing for amendments to broadcast regulations. While launching a policy to promote overseas deployment of broadcast programs (content), the abolishment of Article 4 of the Broadcast Act enforcing political equity of programs was tabled for the time being.

During the proceedings, Prime Minister Abe commented on the reform by saying, "We have received a tremendous amount of feedback regarding the establishment of a business model that extends beyond the bounds of telecommunications and broadcasting, and we will continue to work closely with the Ministry of Internal Affairs to

MEANING?

THE PRIME MINISTER TOUCHED ON MAKING CHANGES TO BROADCASTING REGULATIONS AT THE DIET'S SPRING MEETING.

MOST LIKELY.

IT MATCHES UP WITH WHAT HANAWA-SHI PREACHED.

YOU'RE TELLING ME THAT CULT DIPPED THEIR HANDS INTO TERRORISM TO TRY TO PREVENT THIS?

HANG ON A SEC...

AS WELL AS MOVE BASIC STATIONS TO A NET-BASED FORMAT.

...THAT WOULD LOOK INTO REALLOCATING FREQUENCIES THAT GIVE EXISTING BROADCASTERS AN UNFAIR ADVANTAGE,

HE MENTIONED HAVING A MAJOR REFORM IN THE WORKS...

WHAT THE PRIME MINISTER HOPES TO DO IS ESTABLISH A NEW FORM OF BUSINESS UTILIZING RADIO WAVES THAT SUPERSEDES OUR CURRENTLY STYMIED BROADCASTING INDUSTRY.

SO, LIKE, WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

WHY DON'T YOU TRY USING YOUR BRAIN A LITTLE? DON'T EXPECT ME TO SPOON-FEED YOU.

Broadcast Act enforcing political equity of programs was tabled for the time being
During the proceedings, Prime Minister Abe commented on the reform by saying, "We have received a tremendous amount of feedback regarding the establishment of a business model that extends beyond
...commun'cations and
...ill continue to
...Interna...
...ward...
...ade...

...TALKS ABOUT HOW THE REFORM COUNCIL'S PROPOSAL TO REPEAL ARTICLE 4 OF THE BROADCAST ACT WAS SHOT DOWN BY THE BROADCAST INDUSTRY AND INEVITABLY TABLED.

AND THIS ARTICLE...

...with ...
...oadcasting
...was a
...e media.
...of the
...y, the council's
...was the

NEGERO-MAN
SEASON 7

第二回選手権

Fingers Pinched

HURU, NETFOX, JUNGLE PRIME... THE INTERNET'S OVERFLOWING WITH STREAMING SERVICES THESE DAYS.

AND YOU CAN ENJOY ALL YOUR FAVORITE ENTERTAINMENT AS EASY IF NOT EASIER THAN WATCHING TV.

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS SIGN UP,

THAT OPENS UP A LOT OF FREQUENCIES TO BE USED FOR OTHER BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES.

LET'S SAY YOU TAKE ALL THOSE BROADCASTS OFF THE AIR AND PUT THEM ONLINE.

AND IF THAT'S THE CASE,

THE PM ARGUES THAT USERS CAN'T TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TERRESTRIAL AND SATELLITE OR ONLINE BROADCASTS.

THE PROBLEM...

IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT SOLELY FROM A BUSINESS PERSPECTIVE, SURE.

HUH... I MEAN, IT *SOUNDS* LIKE A GOOD IDEA.

RIGHT NOW, THE BROADCAST ACT DOESN'T EXTEND TO INTERNET STREAMING, AND THE PM HAS GONE ON RECORD SAYING HE HAS NO INTENTION OF TIGHTENING REGULATIONS.

Article 4; Broadcasters musts comply with the follow ng when editing domestic broadcast ns or domestic and internationa broadcast pro ereinafter referred to as "domestic broadcasts, etc."

't must not negatively blic safety or go
t must be politically f
eporting must not di
must clarify the poi
ssible where there
ue.

oadcasters must
ssible wh'ch e
ices a

...OUTLINED IN ARTICLES 4, 6, 9, 92, AND 93 OF THE BROAD-CAST ACT.

...LIES IN THE RULES AND REGULATIONS...

OR LEAVE THE INTERNET A NO MAN'S LAND.

THE QUESTION IS WHETHER THEY'LL ENFORCE THE BROADCAST ACT ONLY ON *US*,

WHEN BROADCAST WORKERS AND INTERNET STREAMERS ARE PUT ON THE SAME PLAYING FIELD,

COMPARED TO TV, THE NET HAS WAY LESS NEWS COVERAGE, RIGHT?

THAT'S WHY IT HASN'T BEEN ACTUALIZED.

FORGET ABOUT VLOGS AND SHIT, THESE ARE *BUSINESSES* WE'RE TALKING ABOUT.

YOU REALLY THINK BIASED BROAD-CASTERS ARE THAT COMMON ON THE INTERNET?

THAT'S BECAUSE IN ANY INDUSTRY, WHENEVER A SERVICE IS LIBERALIZED, THE MINORITY'S THE FIRST TO GET SCREWED.

OR THEIR OBLIGATION TO MAKE SURE BASIC STATIONS ARE AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE BROADCAST AREA, NO MATTER HOW DEEP IN THE MOUNTAINS YOU LIVE.

IF STATIONS ARE RELIN-QUISHED FROM THE BROADCAST ACT, THERE'S NO GUARAN-TEE THAT THE STATUS QUO WILL BE MAINTAINED.

TAKE COMPANIES' DUTY TO PROVIDE COMMENTARY AND SUBTITLE OPTIONS FOR THE VISUALLY AND HEARING IMPAIRED,

IT ALSO MEANS CONTENT HAS TO BE DELIV-ERED TO EVERYONE EQUALLY.

BESIDES, IMPARTIAL-NESS DOESN'T JUST REFER TO POLITICAL BIAS.

TO ANYONE WHO'S BEEN IN THIS INDUSTRY LONG, HAVING THE FENCE THAT SEPARATES THE TWO TORN DOWN WITHOUT YOUR CONSENT MUST BE HARD TO SWALLOW.

JUST AS THE INTERNET IS CHARACTER-IZED BY ITS FREEDOM,

BROADCASTERS TAKE GREAT PRIDE IN THEIR IMPARTIALNESS.

BUT I'M GLAD WE'RE NOT IN ANY IMMEDIATE DANGER OF HAVING OUR WAVES CONFISCATED.

AND I DON'T CONDONE THE SCHOOL OF WAVE WISDOM'S METHODS ONE BIT,

WELL... I'M TRYING TO GET OUT OF THIS FIELD,

WELL, I GUESS I'M STILL PRETTY NEW TO THIS WHOLE RADIO THING.

I DON'T FEEL TOO STRONGLY EITHER WAY.

THAT SAID, THEY'LL PROBABLY COME FOR RADIO LAST.

BUT IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME.

TWO OLD FARTS,

RELUCTANTLY RESIGNING THEMSELVES TO THE CHANGING TIMES, WHILE STILL HARBORING THE FAINT FLAMES OF REBELLION DEEP WITHIN THEIR HEARTS—THAT PATHOS...

MMM. THAT'S THE STUFF.

BUT I GOTTA SAY...

AGAIN, GET YOUR FACTS STRAIGHT.

SO, THIS IS STOCKY SYNDY, HUH?

I GUESS...

...NOTHING LASTS FOREVER.

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY'S ENDING THEIR FM BROAD-CAST?

YOU'RE KIDDING...

OH.

BUT THEY'LL STILL DO THE RADIO SHOW. THANK GOD...

Chapter 45 『THEY DON'T CARE.』

DID YOU... MESS WITH MY PHONE CONTACTS?

HEY, TORU.

...FREAK.

I WENT AHEAD AND DELETED EVERYONE I DIDN'T THINK YOU NEEDED IN YOUR LIFE.

YEAH.

AND SO, HE EFFECTIVELY CONFINED ME TO THE BACK STORAGE ROOM.

NOT LONG AFTER THE 49TH DAY ANNIVERSARY OF OUR PARENTS' DEATH, MY BROTHER PULLED ME OUT OF COLLEGE BECAUSE WE COULDN'T AFFORD THE TUITION ANYMORE.

I TRIED TO TELL HIM I'D GET A JOB AND PAY MY OWN WAY, BUT HE WOULDN'T LISTEN.

HE INSTALLED BARS ON ALL THE WINDOWS ALONG WITH FIVE LOCKS ON THE FRONT DOOR THAT COULD ONLY BE OPENED FROM THE OUTSIDE.

ONE WAS TUNED TO NHK, WHILE THE OTHER WAS TUNED TO THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF JAPAN. HE GLUED THE DIALS IN PLACE SO I COULDN'T CHANGE THE CHANNELS.

HE GAVE ME TWO PORTABLE RADIOS TO LISTEN TO.

I WASN'T ALLOWED TO USE MY CELL PHONE WITHOUT HIS PERMISSION.

WHICH ONLY MY BROTHER KNEW THE NUMBER TO.

APART FROM THAT, ALL I HAD IN THE ROOM WAS A STAND-ALONE PC AND A LANDLINE PHONE;

FINE BY ME.

I'LL MAKE SOMETHING NICE ON SATURDAY.

MIND IF WE DO FROZEN POT STICKERS FOR DINNER? I'M FEELING A LITTLE OUT OF SORTS TODAY.

SINCE I WAS IN CHARGE OF COOKING, THE ONLY TIME MY BROTHER LET ME OUT-SIDE WAS TO GO GROCERY SHOPPING FOR THE DAY.

BUT IN REALITY, MY BROTHER WAS SIMPLY FOLLOWING ME LIKE A SHADOW TO MAKE SURE I DIDN'T MAKE A BREAK FOR IT.

WE PROBABLY LOOKED LIKE CLOSE SIBLINGS OR EVEN LOVERS.

TO MOST PEOPLE,

OKAY.

ONE SEC. I MADE MISO SOUP TOO.

...WAS PICK ONE OF HIS DISHES EVERY MEAL AND SEASON IT SO TERRIBLY THAT IT WOULD MAKE HIS TONGUE CURL.

...TO GET BACK AT HIM FOR HIS TYR-ANNY...

THE ONLY THING I COULD DO...

HE'S NEVER BLOWN UP AT ME FOR MY SLIGHTS AGAINST HIM.

THE ONLY TIMES MY BROTHER GOT MAD AT ME WERE WHEN I DID SOMETHING EMBARRASSING OR POTENTIALLY DAMAGING (AS DEFINED BY HIM) TO MY FUTURE.

MM...

...NO.

SOME-THING WRONG?

I SOUND LIKE SOME GIRL DEFENDING HER ABUSIVE BOYFRIEND!

NO! DON'T BE STUPID!

MAYBE I'M JUST BEING PETTY...

Listen, Makie.

We've got a problem...

THEN ONE DAY...

AT THAT MOMENT,

I KNEW MY LIFE WAS ABOUT TO CHANGE DRAMATICALLY.

I GOT INTO AN ACCIDENT NEAR THE TOYOHIRA DISTRICT HALL. NO, IT WAS MY FAULT.

I WAS ON MY WAY BACK FROM THE CEMETERY...

...AND RAN RIGHT INTO SOME WORKERS LOADING A CAR.

GO AHEAD AND EAT DINNER WITHOUT ME. DON'T WAIT UP.

THE INSURANCE AGENTS AND THE POLICE ARE HERE TO ASSESS THE DAMAGE.

IT LOOKS LIKE I'M GONNA BE STUCK HERE FOR A WHILE.

...but I might not get out to the store for a few days.

Yeah. I plan to go to the hospital...

DON'T WAIT UP?

WHAT ABOUT THE PEOPLE YOU HIT? ARE YOU GOING TO VISIT THEM IN THE HOSPITAL?

AND SINCE THEY WERE WORKERS, WON'T YOU HAVE TO GO TO THE STORE AND TELL THEM WHAT HAPPENED?

AS SHAMEFUL AS IT IS TO ADMIT,

ALL I FELT WAS RAPTURE FROM BEING BLESSED WITH A ONCE IN A LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY TO TURN MY SITUATION AROUND.

AT THE TIME, MY HEART DIDN'T FEEL AN OUNCE OF GUILT OR DESIRE TO APOLOGIZE TO THE VICTIMS AND THOSE AFFECTED BY THE ACCIDENT.

THEIR NUMBER SHOULD BE ON THE CAR SOME-WHERE.

I'LL LOOK UP THE ADDRESS.

READ IT OUT FOR ME.

HEY...

HUH?

DO YOU EVEN HAVE ANY?

YOU'LL ASK A FRIEND?

LET ME GO TALK TO THE STORE FOR YOU.

I'll tell you how to get out of the house.

Can you do that for me?

Fine...

HE CLAMMED UP.

...

RIGHT UNDER MY NOSE...

click

THUD THUD THUD THUD THUD THUD

THUD THUD THUD THUD THUD THUD

THUD THUD THUD THUD THUD THUD

THIS IS A LITTLE EXTREME, DON'T YOU THINK?

WHAM BAM BOOM

FREEDOM!

I CAME BACK TO FIND THAT THINGS HAVE... CHANGED AROUND HERE.

AFTER BEING AWAY FROM VOYAGER FOR ABOUT A MONTH,

LET'S SEE; ONE ORDER OF RED KEEMA CURRY AND...

HERE! THIS IS FOR YOU.

OH, WOW!

THANK YOU FOR ALWAYS HUMORING MY SON.

MY PLEASURE. DID YOU FEEL BETTER AFTER THAT?

THANKS AGAIN FOR CALLING A CAB FOR ME THE OTHER DAY.

SHE JUST SWOOPED IN AND USURPED MY SHIT!

HEY, TACHI-BANA-SAN.

YES?

I JUST GOT AN ORDER FOR A "MOON BRÛLÉE." ANY IDEA WHAT THAT IS?

OH, I FORGOT TO TELL YOU! IT'S A NEW DESSERT I CAME UP WITH.

HERE'S THE RECIPE.

COOL, THANKS.

PHEW. LOOK AT ALL THEM COM-MENTS.

JUST THINK OF THE AD REVENUE WE COULD BE RAKING IN...

32 BRRRR!
God, it's freezing today (>_<)
Stay warm and keep up the good work, VOYAGERs (^o^)

EriMomiZaki 2014-11-06 11:27:48
33 TURNED ON THE TV AND...
There was a segment on this store on Good Morning Sapporo.
The waitress was even prettier than the reporter.

Krimson Katsu 2014-11-06 11:44:30
34 TACHIBANA-SAAAAAAAN!
I'll come to see you again today! And eat, of course!

Cloudy Heart 2014-11-06 12:09:15
35 NO SUBJECT
Though I am still early in my training, I spent yet another restless night ruminating on Tachibana-san's gentle countenance. Curry mixed with sleep deprivation is a recipe for disaster, but I can't very well NOT go to the store.

Zombeer 2014-11-06 12:14:50
36 ALWAYS A GREAT HELP
Thank you so much for playing with my son again yesterday.
I'm sorry he's always such a handful.
I saw that you added a kids' menu. Great idea!

QSR 2014-11-06

COMFORT ME, NAKAHARA! I'M IN NEED OF SUCCOR!

I SAY NO WAY!

MOON BRÛLÉE?

AND WHAT'S WORSE IS I CAN'T EVEN BLAME ANY-ONE FOR THIS BULLSHIT!

THIS FUCKIN' SUCKS!

WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?!

...IS WHAT I'D SAY IF HE WAS EVEN HERE.

DUDE'S GETTING FELT UP LIKE NO ONE'S BUSI-NESS.

DON'T TELL ME HE'S...

PERFECT! YOU'VE GOT A KNACK FOR THIS!

HOW DOES THE SEAR ON THIS CHICKEN LOOK, TAKARADA-SAN?

OH, YOU HAVEN'T MET YET, HAVE YOU?

KODA-SAN, THIS IS TORU TACHIBANA, MAKIE-SAN'S OLDER BROTHER.

PLEASED TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAIN-TANCE.

SINCE NAKAHARA-KUN'S HAD TO DRIVE BACK AND FORTH FROM SHIBETSU LATELY,

HE ASKED TORU-SAN HERE TO FILL IN FOR HIM AT THE STORE.

...WAIT, WHAT?! BUT YOU DIDN'T HAVE ANY-THING TO DO WITH THAT WHOLE MESS!

OH, UH... LIKEWISE.

STARE

YO, TACHIBANA-SAN! ARE YOU SERIOUSLY OKAY WITH THIS?!

YOUR BROTHER'S OBVIOUSLY JUST HERE TO SPY ON YOU!

MOST LIKELY, YES...

UM... I'M SORRY THINGS HAVE GOTTEN SO COMPLICATED.

BUT TO BE HONEST, I'M ALL FOR IT.

I WANT TO SHOW MY BROTHER THAT I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF.

I MEAN,

IT'D BE ONE THING IF YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE HE WAS SIZING UP, BUT...

A VULGAR WAITRESS, A HANDSY MANAGER, AND A YOUNG BACHELOR? WHAT KIND OF SHIP ARE YOU RUNNING HERE?

ONE ICED CHAI, THREE AYURVEDA B COMBOS, AND ONE ORDER OF BUTTER RICE, PLEASE.

HELLO, YOU'VE REACHED VOYAGER... OH, FROM SRI LANKA IMPORTS? THANKS FOR CALLING!

UM...

Pol Sambol Sauce
(Coconut Sambol-Style)
- Shredded/Ground Coconu
- Maldive fish
- Green Chili Pe

COCONUT SAMBOL SAUCE?

IS THIS GOOD TO GO?

OH... YES.

THANKS FOR WAITING.

THREE AYURVEDA COMBOS AND...WHO ORDERED THE BUTTER RICE?

OH, ME.

...WHO MADE THIS SAUCE?

...ME, SIR.

THAT'S A SRI LANKAN SAUCE. WE USE A LOT OF FLAVORS LIKE THAT HERE.

JUST FOLLOW THE RECIPE TO A T AND YOU'LL BE GOLDEN, 'KAY?

He'd chew me the fuck out over that.

I can taste the bias.

I'M VERY SORRY. THE FLAVOR WAS JUST SO ALIEN TO ME.

I THOUGHT FOR SURE SOMETHING WAS MISSING FROM THE RECIPE...

THAT'S WEIRD...

MY BROTHER DIDN'T USED TO HAVE A PROBLEM WITH ETHNIC CUISINE.

...IT TASTED EXACTLY LIKE MY SPITEFUL COOKING.

OR DID I NUKE HIS TASTE BUDS?

...WAS BECAUSE HE'S JUST ALWAYS HAD BAD TASTE?

ARE YOU TELLING ME THE REASON HE SCARFED DOWN THAT POISON WITH-OUT A SINGLE COMPLAINT...

I'M AMAZED YOU COULD DO THAT EVERY SINGLE DAY...

COOKING'S A LOT HARDER THAN IT LOOKS.

IS HE BEING SARCAS-TIC?

HMM. THAT MIGHT BE NICE.

NO WAY.

A DREAMLAND OF CURRY AND BREAD VOYAGER

YEAH...

DO YOU LIKE WORKING HERE?

ARE YOU THINKING OF BECOMING A CHEF OR A NUTRITIONIST OR SOME-THING?

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN WRITING IN TO RADIO SHOWS, TACHIBANA-SAN?

ABOUT THREE MONTHS OR SO, I'D SAY.

SERIOUSLY? WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED THREE MONTHS AGO?

LATELY, ONCE A WEEK, I'VE BEEN LEAVING WORK EARLY ON THE ONLY DAY NAKAHARA-KUN IS IN THE KITCHEN (THE DAY MY BROTHER ISN'T THERE) TO MEET WITH THE PEOPLE FROM HCB HOKKAIDO BROADCASTING.

BEFORE THEN, I'D ONLY RARELY LISTENED TO COMMERCIAL RADIO,

BUT AROUND THAT TIME, I STARTED WORKING AT A RESTAURANT THAT PLAYS THE RADIO INSTEAD OF CABLE BROADCASTS.

I MIGHT NEVER HAVE TAKEN AN INTEREST IN RADIO IF IT WEREN'T FOR THAT RESTAURANT.

AND IT WAS BASICALLY A FLUKE THAT I STARTED WORKING THERE IN THE FIRST PLACE,

SO IT JUST FELT LIKE FATE, YOU KNOW?

HAVE YOU TALKED IT OVER WITH YOUR FAMILY AT ALL, TACHIBANA-SAN?

WE GET A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO WRITE IN LOOKING TO GET INTO BROADCAST WRITING BUT END UP QUITTING FOR FAMILY REASONS.

I'M SORRY. I HAVEN'T TOLD *ANYONE* YET.

THERE IS SOMEONE WHO'S BEEN VERY SUPPORTIVE, BUT...

YOU MEAN ANYWHERE.

WHAT RESTAURANT IN SAPPORO PLAYS *RAKUGO?*

WOW... GOOD THING IT WASN'T A PLACE THAT PLAYS *RAKUGO** ALL DAY OR YOU MIGHT'VE SET OUT TO BECOME A STORYTELLER INSTEAD.

AH HA HA...

*RAKUGO: TRADITIONAL JAPANESE "SIT-DOWN" COMEDY.

ACTUALLY, I'VE NEVER HAD A BOYFRIEND BEFORE...

YOUR BOYFRIEND, RIGHT?

BOYFRIEND?

AND THAT DOES IT FOR THE TRAFFIC REPORT.

I HAVE OUR FIRST MAIL OF THE DAY HERE:

MIGHT'VE BEEN A BAD CALL TO WEAR MY JACKET TODAY. IT'S SURPRISINGLY HOT.

"DEAR MADOKA-SAN. I ALWAYS LISTEN TO YOUR SHOW AT WORK. I'M A PART-TIMER LIVING IN SAPPORO."

"BACK AT MY ALL-GIRLS SCHOOL, MY FRIENDS AND I WERE THE GROUP OF GLOOMY GIRLS YOU'D ALWAYS FIND WHISPERING TO EACH OTHER IN THE CORNER."

"I WANT TO GET INTO A CAREER WHERE I CAN MAKE PEOPLE LAUGH,"

"BUT I DON'T HAVE ANY CONFIDENCE."

"WOULD YOU MIND GIVING ME A MORALE BOOST, MADOKA-SAN?"

"I'D LIKE TO BECOME SOME-ONE WHO CAN MAKE ALL THE PRETTY GIRLS WHO MADE FUN OF ME LAUGH JUST AS HARD AS MY FRIENDS SOMEDAY."

"THESE DAYS, I'VE FALLEN INTO A RUT OF WORKING PART-TIME DURING THE DAY AND GLOOMILY WRITING MATE-RIAL FOR RADIO SHOWS IN MY NOTEBOOK AT NIGHT."

"IN ALL OF MY ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE, AND HIGH SCHOOL DAYS, I NEVER ONCE GOT THE WHOLE CLASS TO LAUGH AT ONE OF MY JOKES."

A WISE COMEDIAN ONCE SAID:

CHEERFUL PEOPLE CAN'T MAKE GLOOMY PEOPLE LAUGH, BUT GLOOMY PEOPLE CAN MAKE CHEEFUL PEOPLE LAUGH.

ALL OF THEM ARE EXACTLY LIKE YOU DESCRIBE YOURSELF.

WHAAA? WELL, FOR STARTERS,

I'M TRYING TO THINK OF ALL THE PEOPLE I KNOW IN THE SORTS OF FIELDS YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT; COMEDIANS, BROADCAST WRITERS, AND TO BE HONEST,

SPEAKING STRICTLY IN TERMS OF THE PEOPLE I KNOW,

TRULY CHEERFUL PEOPLE—PARTY PEOPLE, SO TO SPEAK—THEY DON'T NEED TO MAKE TOTAL STRANGERS LAUGH TO FEEL VALIDATED.

THEY BRING THE PARTY WITH THEM.

...IS YOU.

THE ONE WHO'S DYING FOR THAT LAUGHTER...

WHEN-EVER I REMEM-BER THAT QUOTE,

PART OF ME THINKS "THAT'S SO TRUE,"

BUT DEEP DOWN, PART OF ME ALSO WONDERS "IS IT REALLY, THOUGH?"

BUT I'D SAY MOST OF THE WORLD IS MADE OF PEOPLE LIKE YOU.

AND I GET THE FEELING YOU THINK YOU'RE IN THE MINORITY,

YOU CAN'T STAND YOUR CURRENT SITUATION,

SO YOU SEEK ENJOYMENT FROM ANYWHERE OUTSIDE YOUR BUBBLE, WHETHER IT'S THROUGH RADIO OR THE INTERNET.

Personally, I adore people like you, Joker-san.

Just about everyone has *some* darkness in their heart.

I think you'll be much better off if you just focus on entertaining yourself and kindred spirits.

Chapter 46 「 NOT ALL MEN ARE DIRTBAGS. 」

YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO GET ME WARMED UP A BIT BEFORE I START AIRING MY DIRTY LAUNDRY.

JUST DIVIN' IN, HUH? NO FORE-PLAY OR ANY-THING?

OKAY, FIRE AWAY.

ALL RIGHT, FINE. THIS HAPPENED ABOUT TWO YEARS AGO...

DID YOU FALL OUTTA THE '30S OR SOME-THING?

WELL, WE HAVE A PEN AND PAPER. CARE FOR A GAME OF TIC-TAC-TOE?

FOREPLAY, *HM?*

MIND IF I SNIPE THIS ONE? I HAD THE OTHER ONE LAST TIME.

...HUH?

YAAAY!♬ HAPPY VALEN-TINE'S DAY!

WRONG HOLIDAY, DUDE.

I WASN'T SURE WHAT TO GET, BUT I ENDED UP GOING WITH MASALE.

DON'T YOU REMEM-BER?

YOU GOT SOME FROM THERE LIKE SIX MONTHS AGO.

UHH. PRETTY SURE THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE GOTTEN CAKE FROM THIS STORE SINCE WE'VE BEEN DATING.

YOU CHEWED ME OUT FOR TRYING TO SNEAK A BITE WHILE YOU WERE MAKING TEA.

YOU KNOW, WHEN YOU GOT HAMMERED ON YOUR DAY OFF.

YOU SERIOUSLY DON'T RE-MEMBER?

HUH?

NO WAY!

AT ANY RATE, THAT NIGHT, I STAYED AT HIS PLACE...

I MEAN, I COULDN'T COUNT HOW MANY TIMES I'D GOTTEN BLACKOUT DRUNK OR CHEWED MITSUO OUT.

"DON'T YOU REMEMBER?" THE MOMENT HE SAID THAT, ANY CONFIDENCE I HAD IN MY MEMORY SHATTERED.

AT THAT POINT, I'D ALREADY DEVELOPED A HABIT OF SAVING EVERY BIT OF EVIDENCE I COULD TO COMBAT HIS COMPULSIVE LYING.

...AND AS SOON AS I GOT HOME THE NEXT DAY, I GATHERED UP ALL THE RECEIPTS I'D KEPT OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS.

LOOK WHAT I FOUND WHILE I WAS CLEANING.

IT'S THE BAG AND RECEIPT FROM LAST TIME.

Chocolatier Masâle

I DIDN'T BUY SHI—

HEY, JACKASS!

OH! HEY, MINARE-CHAN. GOOD TIMING.

AT ANY RATE, THAT NIGHT, I STAYED AT HIS PLACE...

I'M SO GLAD I DIDN'T THROW IT OUT. I TOLD YOU I WASN'T LYING!

HUH...? OH...

AN UNDETERMINED THIRD SET OF PRINTS.

...AND AS SOON AS I GOT HOME THE NEXT DAY, I WENT CIA ON THE RECEIPT WITH MY FINGERPRINT DUSTING KIT, AND WHAT DID I FIND?

ARE YOU OKAY, MINARE-CHAN?

YOU'RE SCARING ME.

A THIRD SET OF PRINTS?

WELL, YEAH. THEY'RE PROBABLY THE CLERK'S OR SOMETHING.

AH HA HA.

WHATEVER. AFTER WE BROKE UP, I FOUND OUT THAT HE WAS IN FACT CHEATING ON ME AT THE TIME.

"YOU'RE SCARING ME."

THE MOMENT HE SAID THAT,

I DON'T CARE IF HE DONATED TO BUILD A SCHOOL IN AFRICA, I'LL NEVER FORGIVE THAT RAT BASTARD!

MOTHER-FUCKER...

SO, THERE. TURNS OUT I WAS RIGHT ALL ALONG.

I...

WHY, WHEN I WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL...

KNOW WHAT? NEVER MIND.

DATING A LIAR TENDS TO BRING OUT THE WORST IN PEOPLE. YOU START TO SUSPECT YOUR PARTNER'S EVERY LITTLE MOVE.

VALENTINES

OKAY, THAT'S PLENTY. THANKS A BUNCH.

SAY WHAT?! I'M GIVING YOU GOLD FOR A SLICE OF CAKE, LADY!

THIS PART IS ONLY AVAILABLE TO PAID SUB-SCRIBERS.

ANYWAY, THAT'S NO GOOD. PLEASE, CONTINUE.

'SUP?

MIND IF I CHANGE THE SUBJECT, KODA-SAN?

WELL, *CLEARLY* IT WAS YOUR FAULT. I SWEAR, YOU CAN'T THINK OF ANYONE BUT YOURSELF, CAN YOU?

...OR SO I WAS PREPARED TO SAY, BUT YOUR STORY WAS SUR-PRISINGLY RELATABLE. I RATHER ENJOYED IT.

I GOT DRINKS WITH KUREKO-SAN FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A WHILE THE OTHER NIGHT.

NOW WHO'S BEING INSENSITIVE?

I JUST SMELLED SOME TRAMP ON HIM. THAT'S ALL.

OH, YOU KNOW.

WHERE THE HELL'D *THAT* COME FROM?!

TELL ME, DID EITHER YOU OR NANBA-SAN SLEEP WITH HIM IN WASSAMU?

Koda, clear.

MM-HM. THAT LOOK TELLS ME YOU DON'T HAVE A CLUE BUT WANT TO GET UNDER MY SKIN, SO YOU'RE TRYING TO BE AS SUGGESTIVE AS POSSIBLE.

SHIT... HOW'D SHE KNOW?

HOLD UP, CHISHIRO-SAN.

YOU KNOW KUREKO-SAN HAS A THING FOR YOU, BUT IT'S NOT LIKE YOU TWO ARE OFFICIALLY GOING OUT OR ANYTHING, RIGHT?

DO YOU REALLY HAVE ANY SAY IN WHAT KUREKO-SAN DOES WITH ANYONE?

YOU UNDERSTAND, DON'T YOU?

NOPE, CAN'T SAY I DO.

WHAT A BITCH...

DO I HAVE ANY *SAY*? NO, I SUPPOSE NOT.

IT JUST IRRITATES ME WHEN THE MAN I THOUGHT WAS CHASING ME SNEAK PEAKS AT OTHER GIRLS.

S'PROBABLY WHY I GOT SO MIFFED WHEN NAKAHARA OFFERED TO LET TACHIBANA-SAN STAY AT HIS PLACE.

WELL... MAYBE I UNDERSTAND A LIIITTLE.

SO WE'VE BEEN TRADING OFF WHO WORKS AND WHO GOES INTO THE POLICE STATION.

THERE'D BE CHAOS AT THE STORE IF WE BOTH TOOK THE SAME DAY OFF,

SPEAKIN' OF WHICH, WE HAVEN'T HAD A CHANCE TO TALK MUCH LATELY, HUH?

UHH. HEY, IT'S MINARE.

WHY IN GOD'S NAME IS "ORIGINAL LOVE" YOUR VOICEMAIL MESSAGE?

OH. HEY, IT'S–

...

GUESS I SHOULD TOSS HIM BONE ONCE IN A WHILE.

PLUS, IT WAS COOL OF HIM TO COME TO MY RESCUE IN WASSAMU.

UH...HUH. DID YOU GUYS SWAP HORROR STORIES OR SOME-THING?

THE SCOURGE I SEALED AWAY YEARS AGO HAS ONCE AGAIN BEEN UNLEASHED UPON THE WORLD...

WELCOME BACK! HOW'D YOUR CHAT WITH CHISHIRO-SAN GO?

YOU THINK EVERYTHING'S "NICE," MIZUHO.

VALENTINE'S WITH YOUR EX MIGHT AS WELL BE A DAY THAT WILL LIVE IN INFAMY.

Dine before us, will you? Insolence!

mrr...

MUST BE NICE TO SPEND VALENTINE'S WITH SOME-ONE SPECIAL...

BUT ISN'T IT KINDA EARLY?

...SHE WAS GATHERING MATERIAL FOR HER SPECIAL?

Y'KNOW, VALENTINE RADIO.

OH! MAYBE...

MM?

The enemy?

MIZUHO'S CATTINESS CRANKS UP TO 11 WHENEVER MADOKA CHISHIRO'S INVOLVED.

OOF.

MINARE-SAN!

PLEASE DON'T SLEEP THROUGH LIFE!*

YOU SPILLED ALL THAT ABOUT CAKE AND FINGER-PRINT DUSTING WITHOUT EVEN KNOWING YOU WERE HELPING THE ENEMY!

MIND JOGGIN' MY MEM-ORY?

VALEN-TINE RADIO?

*CATCHPHRASE OF THE NHK QUIZ SHOW MASCOT, CHIKO-CHAN.

VALENTINE RADIO'S A WEEK-LONG INTERSTATION SPECIAL THAT'S HELD EVERY YEAR IN FEBRUARY.

THAT NIGHT WAS ABOUT AS FUN AS CHUGGING GUTTER WATER...

MINARE-SAN...

WHY THE HELL'D I GET CAKE WITH THAT HARPY?

CHISHIRO-SAN MENTIONED SOMETHIN' LIKE THAT BEFORE.

OH, YEAAAH.

BY AND LARGE, IT'S GOING TO BE A COLLAB WITH HCB,

SO WE WANNA MAKE IT A GOOD YEAR.

WHILE I SAY INTERSTATION, IT USED TO JUST BE A LITTLE FESTIVAL HELD AMONG JFL-AFFILIATE* STATIONS.

BUT THIS YEAR, THEY'RE INVITING STATIONS OUTSIDE THE FAMILY TO THE PARTY.

*JFL: JAPAN FM LEAGUE, A COMMERCIAL RADIO NETWORK.

BY THE WAY,

HERE'S THE LIST OF CANDIDATES FOR THIS YEAR'S LINEUP.

YOU'RE LOOKIN' AT ME LIKE THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU.

HUH?

WELL, IT DOESN'T, RIGHT?

HM...

☆ MADOKA CHISHIKO ☆
☆ HOSHINO ROUGELIEN ☆
◎ AKIKO HAYASHIMARU ◎
◎ KAZUO SHIGEMATSU ◎
○ SHO MATSUOBA
○ MACHIKO KURE
? ○ MINARE KODA (TBD)

HAVE YOU BEEN FOLLOWING THE NEWS ABOUT THE SCHOOL OF WAVE WISDOM?

WAIT... THIS HAS GOTTA BE A MISTAKE!

SO, WHILE THEY'RE STILL HAVING THEIR LITTLE FIELD DAY...

MM-HM. THE PRESS HAS BEEN MILKING THE SHIT OUTTA THAT STORY.

HUH? UHH. SOME-WHAT?

THERE'S KINDA TOO MUCH FOR ME TO KEEP UP WITH.

WITH PLENTY OF PLUGS EARLIER IN THE DAY.

AND LEMME TELL YA, WITH THE RESPONSE WE GOT, YOU'D NEVER BELIEVE IT WAS A LATE-NIGHT SLOT.

...I WENT AHEAD AND PLAYED THE AUDIO YOU AND NANBA TOOK IN WASSAMU OVER THE AIR,

'COURSE, THEY AREN'T CONSIDERING YOU JUST 'CAUSE OF THE SPIKE IN RATINGS.

AT ANY RATE, IT'S AN HONOR JUST TO GET YOUR NAME ON THE LIST.

THE STATION WANTS TO AVOID HAVING THE EXACT SAME LINEUP AS LAST YEAR AND, WELL... LET'S JUST SAY THERE'S A LOTTA RED TAPE INVOLVED.

WHAT, YOU DIDN'T KNOW? WEREN'T YOU CURIOUS WHAT WAS PLAYED FOR YOUR OWN SHOW YOU DIDN'T RECORD FOR?

YOU MEAN WHEN I CRIED TO YOU ABOUT HOW I COULDN'T HANDLE RECORDING WHILE I'M BEING DRAGGED OUT TO SHIBETSU,

WHY RECORD AUDIO IF WE DON'T PLAY IT?

YOU WENT AND PLAYED THAT *SHIT* OVER THE AIR? WITHOUT EVEN ASKING ME?!

AND YOU TOLD ME "AH, DON'T SWEAT IT. WE GOTCHA COVERED,"

IT JUST MEANS YOU'LL GET TO MEET A BUNCH OF NEW PERSON-ALITIES,

AND ONLY DIEHARD RADIO FANS WILL BE LISTENING.

JUST HAVE FUN WITH IT.

WELL, NO NEED TO GET ALL TENSE JUST 'CAUSE IT'S A BIG EVENT.

EVEN IF YOU MAKE THE FINAL LIST, YOU'LL PROBABLY GET STUCK IN THE LATE-NIGHT SLOT WITH THE SHORTEST SEGMENT.

DID YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS, MIZUHO?

YOU BET.

IT'S JUST, UHH, WHILE WE WERE BEIN' HELD HOSTAGE...

...I KINDA GOT A *LITTLE* TOO USED TO LAZING AROUND.

CHEER UP, MINARE-SAN! THIS IS A HUGE HONOR!

OH, I'M SURE IT IS...

REAL TALK, EVER SINCE WE GOT BACK TO SAPPORO, JUGGLING THE CURRY SHOP AND RADIO HAS BEEN A HUGE,

HUGE PAIN IN THE ASS.

AND JUST WHEN I WAS THINKING I WISH WE COULD RECORD TWO WEEKS' WORTH OF SHOWS AT ONCE FROM NOW ON!

WORK ALLERGY

Let's just call it that.

MIZUHO...

I'LL BRAINSTORM WITH YOU ALL NIGHT, MINARE-SAN!

BUT IF YOU'RE UP FOR IT,

I REALLY WANT A CHANCE TO REDEEM MYSELF SINCE I WAS TOTALLY USELESS BACK IN WASSAMU,

SO,

IF YOU REALLY DON'T WANT TO DO IT, THEN I GUESS THAT'S THAT.

PA PARA CHA CHA
PA PARA CHA CHA
PA PARA CHA CHA

チャッチャッチャー
チャーチャッチャー
チャッチャッチャー

I GOT YOUR MES-SAGE.

...

Oh, sorry. Can't tonight. Rain check?

WANNA GO TO THAT PLACE IN TANUKI-KOJI*?

I'M STOKED! YOU HAVEN'T INVITED ME OUT DRINKING IN FOR-EVER!

HELLO ?

Oh! Hey, it's me!

*TANUKIKOJI: THE LARGEST SHOPPING ARCADE IN SAPPORO STRETCHING ABOUT A KILOMETER LONG WITH HUNDREDS OF SHOPS.

味の
Chapter 4 「I CAN'T CONFINE YOU.」

Hey, gang! Thanks for staying up!

...Wave, Listen to Meee!

This is Minare Koda's...

Sorry, I'm still a little traumatized from the incident...

I kid, I kid! I've just been too busy going into the station for questioning day after day.

Man, we haven't done this live in forever. I'm sure y'all were lonely, huh?

Huh?!

"APPARENTLY, THE SCHOOL OF WAVE WISDOM PRACTICED A SORT OF SEXUAL INITIATION."

"DID YOU TAKE PART IN THIS RITUAL TOO?"

THIS EMAIL COMES FROM CIG BURN: "HEY, MINARE-SAN! IT'S GREAT TO HEAR YOU PODCAST AGAIN!"

THIS AIN'T A POD-CAST, BUCKO!

"SO, I SAW SOMETHING ON THE NEWS."

AH HA HA HA....

ANYWAY, THE RITUAL I "TOOK PART IN" *WAS* BASICALLY AN INITIATION CEREMONY.

AND MY PARTNER THE CULT ASSIGNED ME WAS JUST MY TYPE: A BIG, BURLY, HUNK OF A MAN...

I HAVEN'T HAD A MAN IN MY LIFE!

BUT FOR THE PAST YEAR NOW,

UHH.

THOSE OF YOU WHO'VE BEEN LISTENING FROM THE BEGINNING ARE PROBABLY PAINFULLY AWARE,

BUT I DIDN'T GIVE IN! I HUNG IN THERE FOR ALL OF YOU, MY ADORING FANS!

I NEVER SAID ANYTHING ABOUT STAYING SINGLE *FOREVER!*

"MINARE! ARE YOU SERIOUSLY GONNA BE A SPINSTER FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE?!"

MY WOMB WAS PLEADING WITH ME:

REAL TALK, IT WAS A SUPER, *SUPER* CLOSE CALL!

"IT'S A TINY RAMEN JOINT OUTSIDE THE STATION. THEY HAVE A SUPER LIMITED MENU, BUT THEIR FOOD'S INCREDIBLE."

"DID YOU HAPPEN TO STOP BY THE DAIKATSU SHOKUDO WHILE YOU WERE IN WASSAMU?"

THIS COMES FROM STAR-LADDER: "GOOD EVENING, MINARE-SAN."

NEXT, FROM GUERILLA TENGU: "EVENING, MINARE-SAN."

"YOUR PLAY-BY-PLAY UNTIL YOU WERE ABDUCTED BY THE SCHOOL OF WAVE WISDOM HAD ME ON THE EDGE OF MY SEAT."

WELL, THE EXPERIENCE *DID* SHOW ME THE LIMITLESS CULINARY POTENTIAL OF PUMPKIN. CALL IT A STROKE OF LUCK, I GUESS.

IF THE CULT WANTS TO RELAUNCH AS A COOKING SCHOOL, I'D BE DOWN TO SIGN UP.

RAMEN! MAN, I WISH I COULD'VE GOTTEN SOME.

IF MEMORY SERVES, I'D SAY MY DIET DURING MY STAY WAS ABOUT 80% PUMPKIN, 10% SUKIYAKI, AND 10% TREE ROOTS!

SORRY. I WAS KINDA, Y'KNOW, *LOCKED UP AT THE TIME.*

"I USED TO BE EXCITED TO TUNE IN EVERY WEEK TO SEE WHAT KIND OF CRAZY ANTICS YOU'D GET UP TO,"

"BUT LATELY, YOU'VE KINDA SETTLED IN TO ANSWERING LISTENER QUESTIONS LIKE EVERY OTHER BORING TALK SHOW."

"I FIGURED IF THAT'S THE KIND OF SHOW YOU WANT TO DO, I MIGHT AS WELL LISTEN TO CHISHIRO-SAN, Y'KNOW?"

WHOA, WHOA. IS SHE BUFFERING OR WHAT?

...SHE FROZE UP.

"TO BE HONEST, I THOUGHT THE SHOW WAS GETTING A LITTLE STALE, SO IT WAS A NICE BREATH OF FRESH AIR!"

RYOJI KANO-KUN FROM THE SHIRAISHI-KU AREA.

THANK YOU FOR THE... *CONSTRUCTIVE* FEEDBACK, UHH...

TRUE, TRUE. IT'S BORING TO LET THINGS GET TOO ROUTINE. ISN'T THAT RIGHT, MR. SHIRAISHI-KU, RYOJI KANO-KUN?

SHE SPITE DOXED HIM...

OH HO... OH HO HO HO.

DOOOH HO HO HO HO HO.

BLOOD FOR THE BLOOD GOD!

HA-HA-HA. TRUE ENOUGH.

SEE WHAT YOU DID, MATO-SAN?! THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU LET THE LISTENERS PLAY WITH MATCHES!

I WANNA KILL THAT FUCKER AND HIS WHOLE EXTENDED FAMILY!

POMPOUS ...?

IT MIGHT BE A LI'L POMPOUS OF US TO TRY TO EASE BACK INTO OUR OLD FORMAT.

AFTER LEAKING AN EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT OF THE BOTCHED TERRORIST PLOT THAT MADE NATIONAL NEWS,

I CAN ALREADY SEE IT. THIS IS GONNA END WITH ME WORKING WITH A SCRIPT THAT'LL BE LIKE HANGING MYSELF WITH A TOWEL.

OR WE COULD JUST LET KUREKO HANDLE IT.

YOU WON'T GET TO USE HIS TALENT AS A CRUTCH FOR MUCH LONGER.

PULL AT MY HEART-STRINGS ALL YOU WANT. PASS.

WHAT SAY WE DO ANOTHER ON-THE-STREET SEGMENT?

PASS.

YOU ALWAYS USED TO SAY YOU WANTED TO DO A SHOW THAT "FEELS LIKE A WARM, SOFT TOWEL."

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

ABOUT THE SAME AS "TIGER-VANISHING MAGIC ACT" AND "MAGICIAN-VANISHING TIGER ACT."

MM?

I'VE BEEN WORKING UNDER YOU FOR TWO YEARS NOW.

DO YOU MIND IF I COME UP WITH NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAM?

MATO-SAN,

PLUS, I THINK IT'LL BE MUCH EASIER FOR ME AND MINARE-SAN TO COORDINATE.

SO I'D LIKE TO SEE JUST HOW MUCH KNOW-HOW I'VE BUILT UP.

AND I GOT TO WORK ON THE SHOW IN WASSAMU,

DONE AND DONE.

FUCK!

HEY, WAI—

THANKS SO MUCH!

YOU KNOW I CAN'T SAY NO TO YOU.

SURE, ALL YOURS.

MINARE-SAN,

WANNA TAKE A TRIP TO MOTOMACHI WITH ME?

WELL, I WENT AHEAD AND TWEAKED IT A LITTLE.

OH, YEAH.

I HAVEN'T CHECKED IT ONCE SINCE IT WENT UP.

YOU KNOW HOW YOU HAVE YOUR OWN PAGE ON THE STATION'S WEBSITE?

IT USED TO LOOK LIKE THIS, RIGHT?

Koda Minare

Looking for suggestions for things to do and talk about.

Sex: Female

DOB: 4th

"DO"? DO WHAT?!

HERE'S WHAT I CHANGED.

Koda Minare

Looking for suggestions for things to talk about.

Sex: Female

DOB: Nov. 4th

Sign:

YUP.

Hokkaido

MRS

I MADE A TWITTER ACCOUNT FOR THE SHOW!

wave LISTEN TO ME!

Tweets 32 Following 47 Followers 515

WHAT DO WE EVEN HAVE TO TELL PEOPLE?!

Tweets Tweets & Replies Media

Pinned Tweet

Wave, Listen to Me! @wave_listentome

Sapporo's zaniest radio show hosted by the charis soup-curry slinging Minare Koda, coming to you li from MRS Moiwayama Radio every Sunday at 3:3 This account is run by the show's assistant directo

1 46

Wave, Listen to Me! @wave_listentome Nov 24

I came home to find a man passed out drunk outsi apartment door. I shook him awake and he slinked the night while mumbling something under his bre

1 11

Wave, Listen to Me! @wave_listentome

Minare-san came home and immediately picked u

OH, AND CHECK THIS OUT!

AND THE PILE OF DRINKS AND SNACKS WE HAD LAST NIGHT.

IF I DIDN'T KNOW BETTER, I'D SWEAR THIS ACCOUNT BELONGED TO SOME LONELY RETAIL WORKER IN HER 30'S.

IT'S ALL PERSONAL SHIT...

JUST SOME SHOTS OF THE TURTLES.

MM-HM.

WAIT, YOU POSTED PICS? OF WHAT?

OH, THESE?

OH, HEY. WE GOT SOME DIRECT MESSAGES.

MM?

FORGET ABOUT THAT. LOOK!

Bohemian Beshow
@beshow_bohemian

and I'm a big fan of your show. I'm very sorry to bother you like this, but I just had to ask you about something.

11.24.2015 15:37

I have a 24-year-old son and an 18-year-old daughter. For about five years now, my son has been what you'd call a "shut-in."

11.24.2015 15:38

Bohemian Beshow
@beshow_bohemian

Hello, I'm a housewife living in Motomachi and I'm a big fan of your show. I'm very sorry to bother you like this, but I just had to ask you about something.

11.24.2015 15:37

I have a 24-year-old son and an 18-year-

HELLO, I'M A HOUSEWIFE LIVING IN MOTOMACHI AND I'M A BIG FAN OF YOUR SHOW. I'M VERY SORRY TO BOTHER YOU LIKE THIS, BUT I JUST HAD TO ASK YOU ABOUT SOMETHING. I HAVE A 24-YEAR-OLD SON AND AN 18-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER. FOR ABOUT FIVE YEARS NOW, MY SON HAS BEEN WHAT YOU WOULD CALL A "SHUT-IN." HE GOT A JOB AFTER GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL, BUT I GUESS HE HAD SOME SORT OF TROUBLE AT THE OFFICE (AS SHAMEFUL AS IT IS TO ADMIT, I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO GET THE DETAILS OUT OF HIM). UNSURE OF WHAT TO DO OR WHO TO TURN TO, I REMEMBERED THERE WAS A Q&A SEGMENT ON *WAVE, LISTEN TO ME!* I FEEL AS THOUGH I'VE FAILED MY SON AND MY FAMILY. AS SUCH, IT DIDN'T SEEM COMPLETELY UNREASONABLE TO ASK YOU FOR ADVICE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.

APPARENTLY, SHE TRIED TALKING TO SHUT-IN COUNSELING CENTER IN TOWN,

BUT THEY WEREN'T MUCH HELP.

THEN SHE SAW THE NEWS ABOUT THE CULT AND MRS...

THERE'S MORE.

...ISN'T THIS SOMETHING YOU SHOULD TAKE UP WITH THE GOVERNMENT OR A NON-PROFIT?

I THINK YOU'RE JUST THE RIGHT PERSON FOR THE JOB.

MINARE-SAN,

...AND FIGURED WHO BETTER TO ASK FOR HELP IN GETTING HER SON TO COME OUTSIDE THAN THE PEOPLE WHO ESCAPED CAPTIVITY ALL ON THEIR OWN.

DID THIS LADY RACK HER BRAINS SO HARD SHE KNOCKED A FEW SCREWS LOOSE?!

WHO KNOWS? I MIGHT HAVE TO START REPORTING TO THE POLICE HERE IN SAPPORO TOO.

THERE'S LIKE A 40% CHANCE I'LL END UP WHOOPING HIS WHINY LITTLE ASS.

SORRY, MIZUHO,

BUT IF THERE'S ONE THING I CAN'T STAND, IT'S NAMBY-PAMBY NEGATIVE NANCYS.

MUCH LESS GIVE THEM ANY MEANINGFUL ADVICE.

I CAN'T IMAGINE YOU'D EVER TAKE A TOTAL STRANGER'S PROBLEMS SERIOUSLY,

I MEAN,

WHAT GIVES, MIZUHO?!

I NEED YOU TO BE THE FIBER THAT KEEPS ME REGULAR!

WELL, IF IT COMES TO THAT, THEN SO BE IT, I GUESS...

EVEN SO,

I'VE ALWAYS FELT THAT THERE'S SOMETHING SPECIAL ABOUT YOU.

ouch...

EN.

TORO.

PEA?

MINARE-SAN,

YOU HAVE THE POWER TO AMPLIFY ENTROPY.

THE INCIDENT WITH OKI-SAN'S ROOM,

YOUR INVOLVE-MENT...

THE SCHOOL OF WAVE WISDOM SCANDAL...

...ALWAYS HAS A WAY OF SETTING THINGS IN MOTION.

NO SYNTHESIZER

PRETTY SURE SHE'S GOT IT BACK-WARDS...

UH-OH.

I KNOW THIS DOMI-NEERING WAY OF DECIDING SHIT JUST 'CAUSE IT SEEMS AMUSING.

HIS MOTHER WILL HAVE TO TAKE IT FROM THERE.

AS THEY SAY, "LEAP BEFORE YOU LOOK."

HOLD UP! LET'S SAY I KICK HIS ASS AND DRAG HIM OUT OF HIS ROOM!

WHAT THEN?

THERE'S NO GUARANTEE HE'LL START WORKING AGAIN!

MIZUHO'S POSSESSED BY MATO!

UM... I GUESS I'M UP FOR IT.

S'NOT LIKE I HAVE ANY OTHER IDEAS.

HEY, ABOUT THE SHUT-IN THING...

HM?

BUT AREN'T YOU SCARED, MIZUHO?

WE'LL BASICALLY BE BARGING INTO SOME STRANGER'S LIFE.

MINARE-SAN,

YOU CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT INTRUDING INTO OTHER PEOPLE'S LIVES.

"I'M WORRIED ABOUT MY EXAMS. I BROKE UP WITH MY BOY-FRIEND AND WANT TO DIE."

I THINK IT'S TERRIFYING HAV-ING TO ANSWER QUESTIONS LIKE THOSE ONE-BY-ONE.

BESIDES, ISN'T THAT KIND OF A RADIO DJ'S JOB?

WELL, YEAH.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, WELL, YEAH?

BUT DON'T YOU THINK ANYONE WHO ASKS A DJ FOR ADVICE PROBABLY ISN'T IN *THAT* MUCH TROUBLE?

THIS SOUNDS KINDA HARSH,

THERE'S NOT A WHOLE LOT A RADIO DJ CAN DO FOR THEM, RIGHT?

ONLY A TURN FOR THE BETTER OR THE LOVE OF THEIR FRIENDS AND FAMILY WILL HELP THEM.

PEOPLE WHO ARE STANDING AT A CRUCIAL CROSSROADS IN THEIR LIFE, PEOPLE WHO FEEL SO HOPELESS THAT THEY'RE SERIOUSLY CONTEMPLATING SUICIDE...

IT FEELS NICE TO HAVE A STRANGER OPEN THEIR HEART TO YOU, EVEN IF IT'S JUST FOR A MOMENT.

ISN'T THAT ENOUGH? I THINK SO.

STILL,

AND OTHERS FEEL HOPELESS OVER THE SILLIEST THINGS AND JUST NEED SOMEONE TO GIVE THEM A REALITY CHECK. THOSE ARE PEOPLE YOU *CAN* HELP.

SOME PEOPLE ALREADY KNOW WHAT THEY SHOULD DO AND JUST NEED A LITTLE ENCOURAGE-MENT.

MY LIFE'S BEEN TURNED UPSIDE-DOWN SINCE YOU CAME INTO THE PICTURE, MINARE-SAN.

EVEN IF YOU WEREN'T HERE, I WOULDN'T BRING GUYS HOME.

I FEEL BAD ABOUT THAT, HONEST...

YOU COULD BE BRINGING GUYS BACK TO YOUR PLACE IF I WASN'T ROLLING AROUND ON YOUR FLOOR.

GOOD NIGHT.

BUT,

IF YOU REALLY DO FEEL GUILTY, THEN HUMOR ME ONCE IN A WHILE.

I GUESS I CAN GIVE YOU ANOTHER CHANCE.

FINE.

THIRD TIME'S A CHARM, I GUESS...

I CAME BY A COUPLE TIMES WHEN YOU WEREN'T HOME, BUT SHE TURNED ME AWAY AT THE DOOR.

BUT TO BE HONEST, I KINDA WISH YOU'D COME AROUND SOONER.

NICE WORK, TAKURO-SAN.

SAY BYE-BYE TO THE NICE LADY, SUBARU.

SORRY FOR ALL THE TROUBLE.

WHAT ABOUT ME?

BYE-BYE, SUBARU-KUN.

THANKS FOR ALL YOUR HELP. I WANTED TO STAY FOR A LITTLE LONGER,

BUT MY HUSBAND SAYS IT'S TURNING INTO BATTLE-SHIP ISLAND BACK AT THE HOUSE.

DON'T MENTION IT. I CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH.

CAN I HAVE A MINUTE, TACHIBANA-SAN?

?

GLAD TO HEAR IT.

BUT, WELL... I GUESS CHUUYA'S ALREADY MADE UP HIS MIND.

THOUGH IT'S REALLY ALL THANKS TO THE PEOPLE AT VOYAGER.

BETTER... I SUPPOSE. HE'S ACTUALLY LISTENING TO ME FOR A CHANGE, ANYWAY.

HOW ARE THINGS WITH YOUR BROTHER LATELY?

OH, SURE. THANKS.

UM... I'LL GO MAKE SOME TEA.

"Y'KNOW, YOU CAN STAY IF YOU WANT."
"IT'D GET LONELY AROUND HERE IF YOU BOTH UP AND LEFT ON ME."

I'LL HELP YOU CONVINCE HIM TO GIVE YOU A LITTLE MORE FREEDOM,

SO MAYBE YOU SHOULD START THINKING ABOUT MOVING BACK HOME.

Y-YES? WHAT IS IT?!

HEY, TACHI-BANA-SAN.

WATCH-ING YOU WORK AT THE STORE,

I THINK YOU AND YOUR BROTHER MIGHT BE ABLE TO TALK THINGS OUT NOW.

*I FELL FOR HIM **BECAUSE** HE DOESN'T SAY THINGS LIKE THAT.*

...THAT'S RIGHT.

Chapter 48 「I WON'T KNOW UNLESS I HURT YOU.」

THE BEAUTIFUL WOMAN STANDING BEFORE HIM WAS NONE OTHER THAN THE JOB-HOPPING, UNDEFEATED BARE-KNUCKLE BOXER KNOWN AS THE MAYWEATHER OF SAPPORO.

HCB

LITTLE DID MASAHIKO KNOW,

WHAT? IS THAT SUPPOSED TO BE A PICK-UP LINE?

YOU MIGHT AS WELL TELL ME TO PUT A BAG OVER MY HEAD.

GOD, YOU'RE GORGEOUS... YOU LOOK JUST LIKE NOZOMI SASAKI MINUS THE GIRLISH CHARM AND PHOTOGENICITY.

JUST HOW SAD IS YOUR LIFE...?

TOTALLY! I HAVEN'T LAUGHED THIS HARD SINCE THAT SEASON ONE EPISODE OF 24 WHERE BAUER'S WIFE GETS AMNESIA!

DO YOU LIKE HANGING OUT WITH ME?

THINK YOU COULD'VE GONE WITH SOMETHING, I DUNNO, CLOSER TO SCALE?

I KNOW, RIGHT? IT'S ABOUT 1/2000TH THE SIZE OF THE SAPPORO DOME.

WOW... IT'S HUGE.

HERE WE ARE! THIS IS MY PLACE.

WHERE'S THE BAR AGAIN?

ARISA? HEY, WE JUST FINISHED.

NICE WORK!

EASY FOR YOU TO SAY. YOU ONLY HAVE TO SEE HIM ONCE A WEEK. I HAVE TO PUT UP WITH HIS CREEPY BULLSHIT EVERY SINGLE NIGHT.

THEY JUST GOT MARRIED LAST MONTH, RIGHT? HE SURE LOOKS HAPPY.

ALLY MY LOVE

NO, REALLY. I'LL BOOK IT BACK AS SOON AS I HANG UP.

...NOT AS MUCH AS I LOVE YOU.

I'LL BE HOME SOON.

I'VE BEEN STAYING AT A COWORKER'S HOUSE, BUT I THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME I FOUND MY OWN PLACE AND STOP MOOCHING OFF OF HIM.

SORT OF.

HUH... YOU'RE LOOKIN' TO MOVE?

HE WAS LIVING WITH HIS OLDER SISTER AND WAS KIND ENOUGH TO LET ME ROOM WITH THEM.

NO, IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!

SO, YOU *DO* HAVE A BOY-FRIEND.

WHY DON'T YOU JUST SHACK UP WITH HIM FOR REAL?

STILL, I DON'T THINK HE'D LET YOU BUM AT HIS PLACE IF HE DIDN'T HAVE A THING FOR YOU, REGARD-LESS IF HIS SISTER WAS AROUND.

AHH. GOTCHA.

BUT HIS SISTER MOVED BACK HOME THE OTHER DAY, SO...

ROOM HUNT GOING OKAY? HOW MUCH YOU GOT IN THE BANK?

I WOULD IF I COULD ...

SORRY... LIFE'S NOT THAT SIMPLE, I GET IT.

I AM WORK-ING...

YOU TRAINING TO BE AN ASCETIC MONK OR WHAT?

...BUT I'M NOT EXACTLY GETTING *PAID* FOR IT.

I THINK I'M BEING PRETTY OBJECTIVE HERE!

MM HM HM. LISTEN TO YOU, MR. MONEYBAGS. IT MUST BE NICE BEING A SUCCESSFUL COMEDIAN.

*THAT'S NOTH-ING!

...80K.*

HOLD UP, ARE YOU STILL BASICALLY LIVING LIKE A SHUT-IN?

WOW...

THAT'S A CRAZY STORY, TACHIBANA-SAN.

*APPROX. $800 USD.

BUT YOU'RE STILL WORKING THERE FOR FREE, RIGHT?

...IT'S NOT LIKE *YOU* RAN OVER THE STORE'S EMPLOYEE.

BUT I MEAN...

YOU COULD PROBABLY LEVERAGE THAT TO GET THEM TO WORK WITH YOU A LITTLE MORE...

IT'S NO WONDER YOU HAVEN'T SAVED UP ANY MONEY.

AND I'M WILLING TO BET THE STAFF FEEL AT LEAST *SOMEWHAT* GUILTY ABOUT THAT.

OH, MY GOD...

HUH ?!

HOW LOW CAN YOU STOOP?

I MEAN, I GUESS IT IS LIKE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THEIR KINDNESS, BUT...

WANNA CRASH AT MY PLACE, THEN?

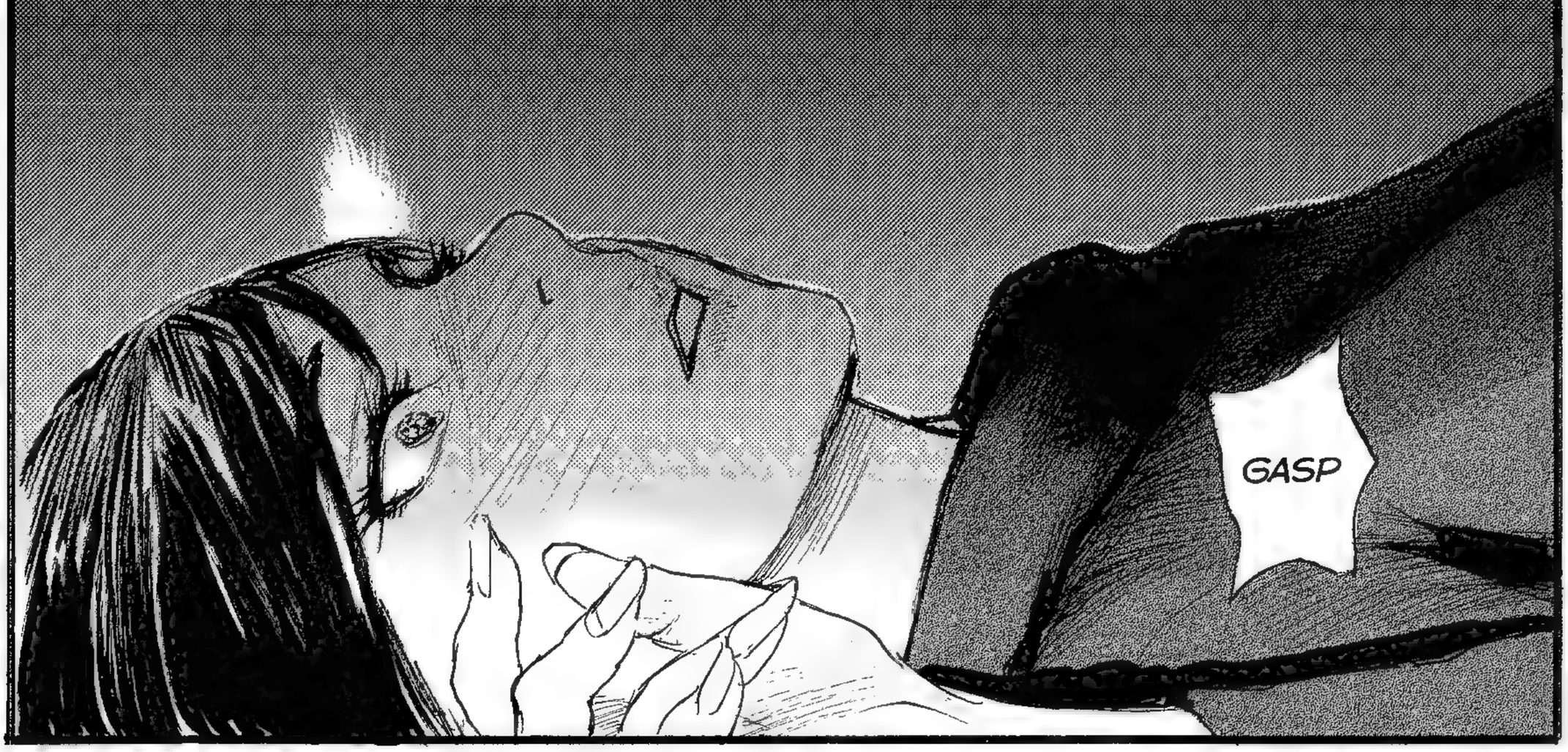
IT'S A TWO BEDROOM, BUT I PRETTY MUCH ONLY USE THE MASTER AND THE LIVING ROOM.

NO, NO! I WAS TALKING ABOUT MYSELF!

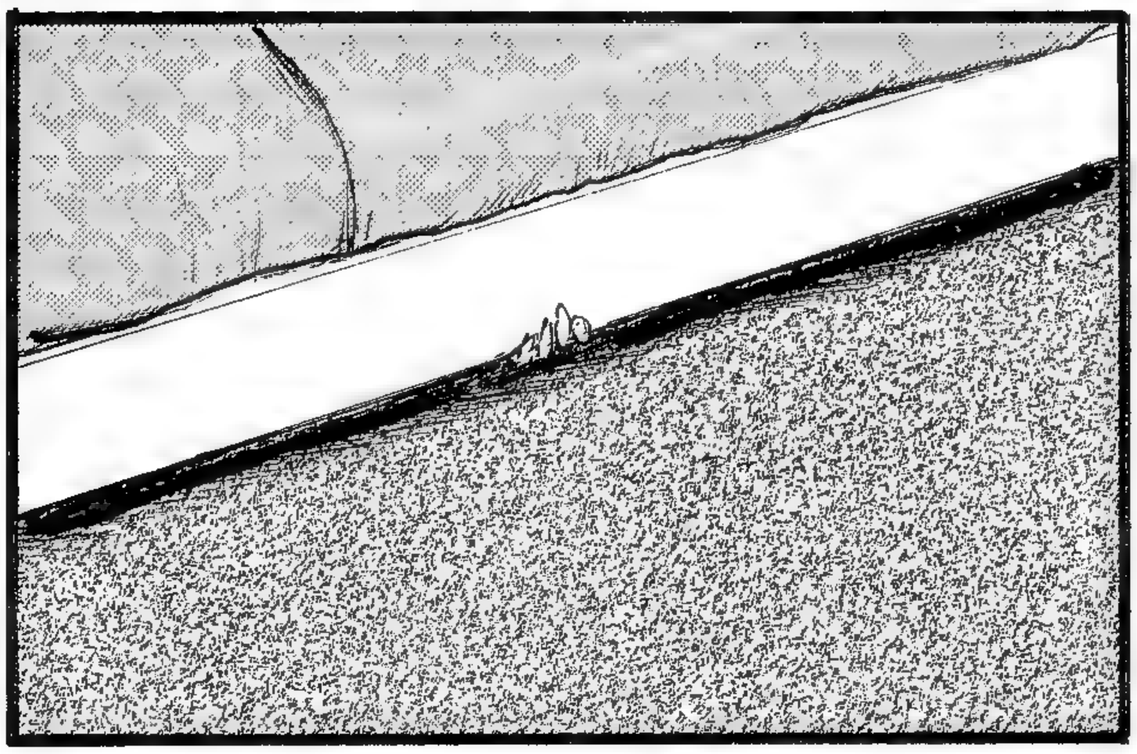
FOR A SECOND, I ACTUALLY THOUGHT THAT SOUND-ED LIKE A GOOD IDEA!

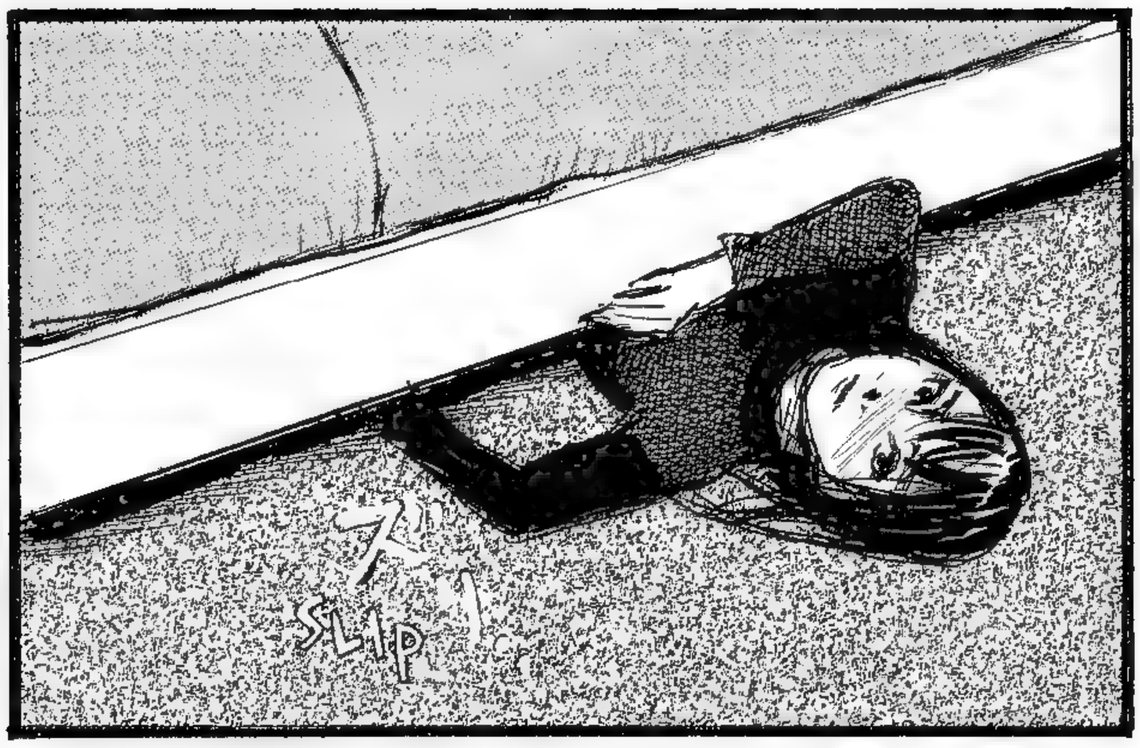
SAME SHIT...

I'VE GOT A GUEST BED SET UP TOO. SMELLS LIKE DUDE, THOUGH.


GASP

...




SLIP

I KNOW HER...

SHE WAS ON THAT DRAMA NAKAHARA-SAN WAS WATCHING.

...

!

SHIT!

WHAP!

...AND YOU'RE ALREADY BRINGING GIRLS BACK TO YOUR PLACE?!

IT'S ONLY BEEN THREE DAYS SINCE WE BROKE UP...

WHAT THE HELL IS WRONG WITH YOU?!

UHH, SO?

AREN'T TWO PEOPLE SINGLE AGAIN THE SECOND THEY BREAK UP?

UM... IT'S NOT WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE!

I'M JUST GOING THROUGH A ROUGH PATCH IN MY LIFE RIGHT NOW.

Don't point at people.

I BET YOU THOUGHT THE TABLOIDS WOULDN'T SCOOP YOUR ASS IF YOU PICKED UP SOME CHICK OFF THE STREET, HUH?!

IF YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT THE PAPARAZZI, WHY'D COME OVER? ESPECIALLY UNANNOUNCED...

BESIDES, THERE'S NOTHIN' BETWEEN ME AND HER!

WELL...

YEAH, BUT...

I TOLD YOU I WANTED TO TALK AND TRY TO WORK THINGS OUT, REMEMBER?!

JIRO-SAN'S BEEN VERY KIND IN HELPING ME THROUGH IT.

YEAH, AND NEXT HE'LL BE PUTTING THE MOVES ON YOU!

BRCH!

THE MAY-WEATHER OF SAPPORO ...

WHIF ひょい

WHIF ひょい

WHIF ひょい

WILL YOU JUST CHILL FOR A SEC?!

WELL, FOR ONE THING,

SHE DOESN'T BEAT PEOPLE!

I'LL JUST SEE MYSELF OUT.

AGH!

WHY?! WHAT'S SHE GOT...

..THAT I DON'T ?!

UM...

HOW ON EARTH DID I END UP AT JIRO-SAN'S HOUSE?

YIKES...

I'M THE ONE WHO GOT CARRIED AWAY AND KEPT THROWING COCKTAILS BACK!

...NO, THAT'S NOT FAIR.

UGH, ENTER-TAINERS ARE SO SLEAZY!

HE GOT ME DRUNK AND TOOK ME BACK TO HIS PLACE...

MAYBE I'M MORE LUSTFUL THAN I THOUGHT ...

GOD, I'M SUCH A MESS!

...AND I FOLLOW HIM BACK HOME LIKE A PUPPY.

A MAN JUST HAS TO TELL ME WHAT I WANT TO HEAR...

docomo 4G 2:10

ALL MISSED CALLS

Nakahara-san Mobile

Nakahara-san Mobile

Nakahara-san Mobile

Nakahara-san Mobile

Inada D Other

Toru Mobile

Toru Mobile

Nakahara-san Mobile

Meiko-san Other

FAVORITES HISTORY

I MISSED *THAT* MANY...?

I KNOW WHAT'LL CALM ME DOWN: A LITTLE MODERN PHYSICAL CHEMISTRY THEORY...

PHEW...

However, ancient cosmology was a field of study rooted in the duality of the Earth and the heavens, it was not until the rise of modern natural sciences that...

AH!

HEY!

...!

NAKAHARA-SAN...

I DON'T WANNA KEEP YOU ON A LEASH OR ANYTHING, BUT I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL SORRY FOR YOUR BRO WHEN YOU DISAPPEAR LIKE THAT...

YOU SHOULD'VE TOLD ME WHERE YOU WERE, AT LEAST.

WHY WOULDN'T YOU ANSWER YOUR PHONE?!

...SORRY.

GOOD THING WE DIDN'T MISS EACH OTHER.

I WAS JUST ABOUT TO TAKE THE CAR OUT AND LOOK FOR YOU.

WHEN I TOLD HER I COULDN'T GO UNTIL YOU CAME HOME, SHE WAS LIKE, "THAT'S IT! YOU'RE DEAD, MOTHER-FUCKER!"

SAID SHE LEARNED HOW TO READ FORTUNES AT A DIVINATION BAR AND TOLD ME TO COME OVER OR SHE'D MURDER ME.

I WAS SWEATING BULLETS. MINARE-SAN KEPT BLOWING UP MY PHONE DRUNK OFF HER ASS WHILE I WAS WAITING FOR YOU TO CALL.

I...

I'M SORRY...

NAKA-
HARA-
SAN?

MM?

...YES.

GONNA FIND
YOUR OWN
PLACE?

I'D
APPRECIATE
IT IF YOU
WOULDN'T
TELL MY
BROTHER
JUST YET.

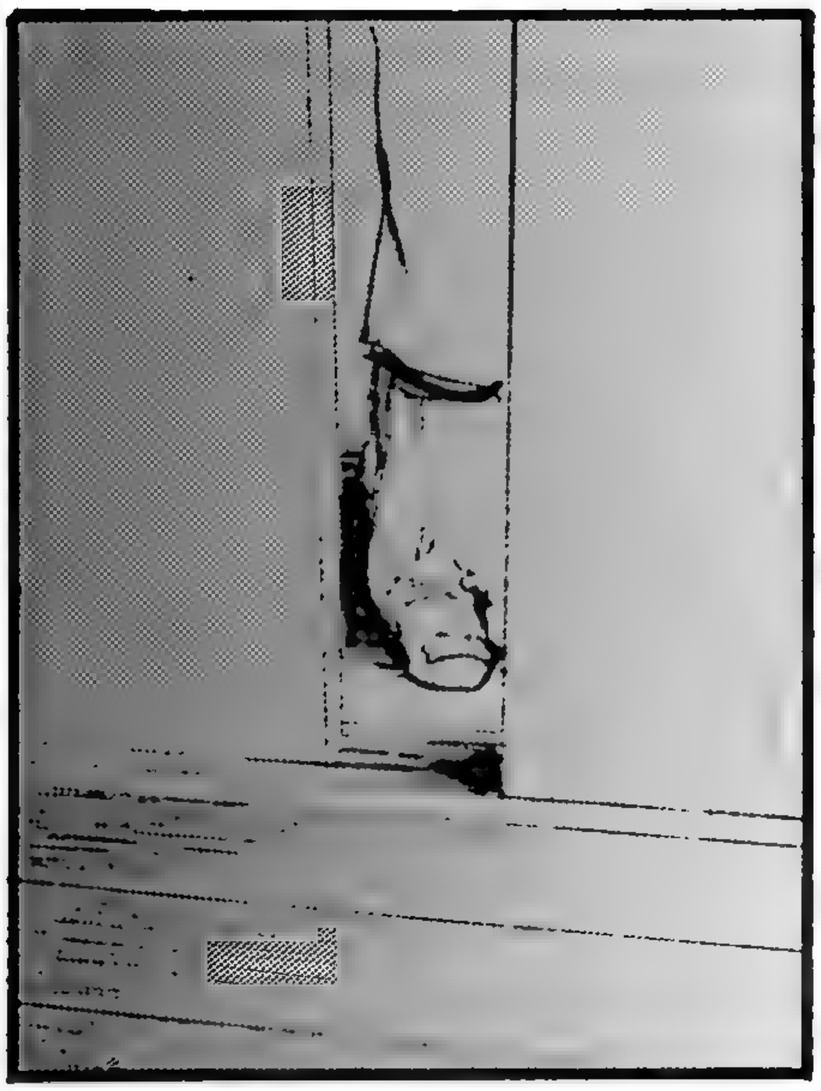
ABOUT
YESTER-
DAY.

I DON'T
WANT TO
MOVE BACK
HOME AFTER
ALL...

...I'LL FIGURE SOME-THING OUT.

GOT MONEY FOR THE MOVE?

...MIND IF I COME OVER TO THAT SIDE?



TACHI-
BANA-
SAN.

THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH TO COVER A FEW MONTH'S RENT.

THERE'S AROUND 300K* IN HERE.

*APPROX. ¥3,000 USD.

HERE...

I ACTUALLY SET IT ASIDE FOR YOU A WHILE AGO. I JUST DIDN'T THINK I'D BE GIVING IT TO YOU THIS SOON.

PLEASE, TAKE IT.

I CAN'T ACCEPT YOUR MONEY...!

LIKE, NOT KNOWING JUST HOW MUCH WORK TO GIVE YOU AND STUFF.

AND WHILE YOU'VE BEEN A HUGE HELP, THERE ARE OTHER PROBLEMS THAT COME WITH IT.

...YOU ENDED UP WORKING AT THE RESTAU-RANT FOR FREE.

LISTEN. DUE TO A BUNCH OF COM-PLICATED CIRCUM-STANCES ...

DEPEND-ING ON HOW YOU LOOK AT IT,

...COULD BE INTER-PRETED AS YOU NOT WANTING TO TAKE YOUR JOB SERIOUSLY.

THE FACT THAT YOU WON'T ACCEPT PAYMENT...

BUT HERE'S THE THING, TACHI-BANA-SAN.

SURE, FOR YOU, MAYBE.

I TOLD YOU NOT TO WORRY ABOUT THAT. IT'S FINE...

SO, WHILE I HATE TO DO THIS, IF YOU WON'T TAKE THE MONEY, I'M GONNA HAVE TO TELL THE BOSS TO LET YOU GO.

WE CAN'T BE A REAL TEAM.

AND AS LONG AS YOU KEEP TAKING THAT STANCE,

ME?

I'D BE WAY HAPPIER IF YOU TOOK THE MONEY, DUH.

...WHAT DO *YOU* WANT ME TO DO, NAKAHARA-SAN?

...BEHIND WHAT YOU JUST SAID.

...THAT THERE ISN'T ANY DEEPER MEANING...

I KNOW FULL WELL...

NAKA-HARA-SAN...

...FOR INTENTIONALLY MISREADING THINGS TO BLOW OFF A LITTLE STEAM... RIGHT?

SO, YOU CAN'T EXACTLY BLAME ME...

BUT... I'M DRUNK AS A SKUNK AND *EXTREMELY* PENT UP RIGHT NOW.

THUMP

A WHAT?

WHOA!

This is what you get for spurning her advances, dude. Poor Tachibana-san... Don't grill her when she gets back, okay? Peace!

Yooo, it's me, Minare. Bad news. I just had the barkeep do another reading, and he says Tachibana-san's hot n' heavy mounting some young stud right now.

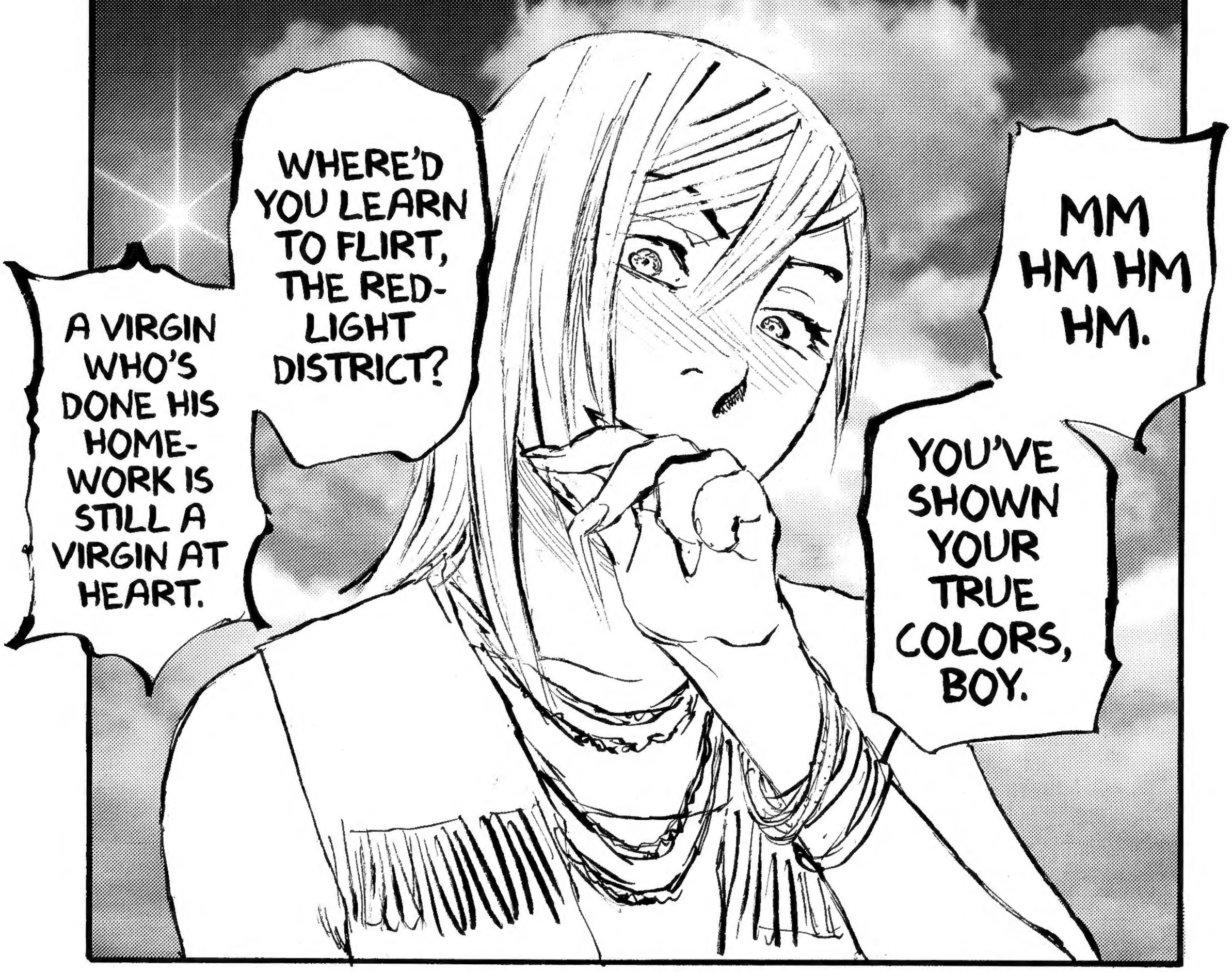
BOOP

The number you have dialed is currently unavailable. Please leave a message after the tone.

OW, OW, OW, OW!

QUIT BITING MY SHOULDER, TACHIBANA-SAN!

TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 7.



AFTERWORD

Greetings, everyone. I hope you enjoyed this sixth edition of *Wave, Listen to Me*, now with more captivity scenes reminiscent of…all my other work. Say, I know this is sudden, but are you all aware what year this manga takes place in? 2018? Ooh. Nope. The answer is 2015. Why 2015? Because it's already been five years since this series began. That's right. Originally, I'd written the story to take place one year in the future, but while time just flies by in reality, it moves at a snail's pace plot-wise. That's just how it is with long-run series. Conceptually speaking, the year 2015 is fairly irrelevant, which is why you'll find references to topics from 2016 and onward (mostly related to baseball) scattered throughout. However, this volume, I decided to incorporate an episode which occurred in 2018 as a major plot point due to its implications on the broadcasting industry as a whole. Now, while I realize this only makes the timeline more convoluted, I reckon you're all adaptable youngsters anyhow, so please get used to it, because it's bound to happen again. F.Y.I., the curried pork skewers that pop up on page 148 of volume 4 first hit Seicomart shelves in the summer of 2017. Well, until next time. See you in volume 7.

Hiroaki Samura

Wave, Listen to Me! 6

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

Wave, Listen to Me! volume 6 copyright ©2019 Hiroaki Samura
English translation copyright ©2021 Hiroaki Samura

All rights reserved.

First published in Japan in 2019 by Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.
Electronic Publishing rights for this English edition arranged through Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.

No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission from the copyright holders.

English digital edition published by Kodansha USA Publishing, LLC, New York.

www.kodanshacomics.com

ISBN: 9781646599264

Digital Edition: 1.0.0

Translation by Adam Hirsch
Lettering by Darren Smith
Editing by Alexandra Swanson
YKS Services LLC/SKY JAPAN, Inc.
Ripping by danke-Empire